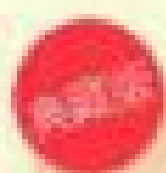


本页面中的内容受版权保护

辛夷坞

原来你 还在这里

原来你
还在这里



北京世纪文景
出版集团
北京世纪文景
出版集团

本页面中的内容受版权保护

本页中的内容受版权保护

華英坊

原来你 还在这里

原来你
还在这里

典藏版

典藏版
原来你
还在这里

本页中的内容受版权保护

lang="en">

You Are Still Here

Table of Contents

- 1. [Chapter 1](#)
- 2. [Chapter 2](#)
- 3. [Chapter 3](#)
- 4. [Chapter 4](#)
- 5. [Chapter 5](#)
- 6. [Chapter 6](#)
- 7. [Chapter 7](#)
- 8. [Chapter 8](#)
- 9. [Chapter 9](#)
- 10. [Chapter 10](#)
- 11. [Chapter 11](#)
- 12. [Chapter 12](#)
- 13. [Chapter 13](#)
- 14. [Chapter 14](#)
- 15. [Chapter 15](#)
- 16. [Chapter 16](#)
- 17. [Chapter 17](#)
- 18. [Chapter 18](#)
- 19. [Chapter 19](#)
- 20. [Chapter 20](#)
- 21. [Chapter 21](#)
- 22. [Chapter 22](#)
- 23. [Chapter 23](#)
- 24. [Chapter 24](#)
- 25. [Chapter 25](#)
- 26. [Chapter 26](#)

27. [Chapter 27](#)
28. [Chapter 28](#)
29. [Chapter 29](#)
30. [Chapter 30](#)
31. [Chapter 31](#)
32. [Chapter 32](#)
33. [Chapter 33](#)
34. [Chapter 34](#)
35. [Chapter 35](#)
36. [Chapter 36](#)
37. [Chapter 37](#)
38. [Chapter 38](#)
39. [Chapter 39](#)
40. [Chapter 40](#)
41. [Chapter 41](#)
42. [Chapter 42](#)
43. [Chapter 43 \(Final\)](#)
44. [Chapter 44 \(Epilogue\)](#)

Chapter 1

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 1

[July 5, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [32 Comments](#)



Hi everyone! I'm yingniang, a temporary blogger here to try my (amateurish) hand at translating an entire novel. Hui3r and Peanuts have been very kind in lending me this incredible platform and also in mentoring me every step of the way. (You guys, so much thought goes into posting and factors other than translating have to be considered. Do appreciate your translators and shower them with love!) I'm fortunate in that I'm in the middle of my holidays so I have some spare time on my hands currently to translate a little more frequently but please don't expect that to be the new standard here or that it would be maintained.

[You Are Still Here](#) is [Xin Yi Wu](#)'s earliest work of fiction, an author whose most famous novel [To Our Eventually Lost Youth](#) was adapted into a blockbuster movie entitled So Young directed by Vicky Zhao. This novel centers on a favourite trope that is first love. Our two leads of vastly different personalities have to battle through misunderstandings, the uncertainties of growing up as well as the greatest barrier that is the unspoken expectations they have of each other. Would their love remain resolute in trying circumstances or would it mellow with time? There is a saying the first cut is the deepest; will that be the case here?

While the rawness of Xin Yi Wu's debut effort can be seen at parts, I like that her characters, though imperfect, are winsome in their own rights. With some 44 chapters to go, we really need characters we can root/bleed for.

I sincerely hope you will enjoy the book as much as I have. Please sound off in the comments section below on any thoughts you might have, be it good or bad. But hopefully good haha.

Chapter 1

That summer was indelibly imprinted in Cheng Zheng's memory. It had been swelteringly hot and seemed to go on forever. Standing on the cusp of senior high graduation and preparing for the starting of university, it felt like metamorphosis. But to Su Yun Jin, what left the deepest impression was the struggles and confusion preceding the transformation; she did not know if the caterpillar fresh out of the cocoon would turn into a colorful butterfly or if a dark and gloomy journey awaited.

Su Yun Jin was born and raised in a county near the provincial capital. Her father was a biology teacher while her mother was originally an accountant in a textile factory who was eventually forced to step down during the "enterprising revolution" and become a homemaker instead. Due to her father's poor health and constant admissions to the hospital, the family was not rich. However, her parents were extremely doting on their only child so Yun Jin never had to experience what it felt like to lack something. After completing her junior year in the high school her father taught at, her parents lamented the fact that the local schools' standard was behind. For their beloved daughter to stand a good chance of attending a quality university, they utilized whatever savings and connections they had and transferred her to a better school in the provincial capital.

Yun Jin felt uncomfortable with her parent's arrangements. Firstly, this would require her to be independent and live apart from her parents for the first time in her life. Secondly, the expensive school fees caused her much heartache every night. Of course, she could not battle her parent's desires nor did she want to disappoint them so for her sophomore year, she became a transfer student at a

school in the provincial capital.

Yun Jin had already expected that she would require some adjusting to a new environment but she did not foresee how emotional she would get when she met challenges and setbacks. Her grades were not shabby. In her previous school, she was always among the top ten in her cohort. However, in her first examinations in the new school, she felt the distinct difference in standards and was fifth from the bottom in her batch. That night, she hid under her blanket and cried for a long time, despairing at the prospect of telling her parents about her grades. Shocked, with a greater dose of embarrassment, Yun Jin felt that she had frittered away her parents' hard earned money. In the subsequent days, she felt burdened by her identity as "fifth from the bottom" and could not bear to face her classmates.

Eventually, she grew out of her embarrassment and strove towards excellence. However, reality being the cold damper it usually is, meant that no matter how diligent she was, Yun Jin was never able to have that one outstanding moment to reverse the shame of that first examinations. Although she was never again ranked from the bottom, when her sophomore year ended, in a class of sixty odd students, Yun Jin never broke into the top half in standing. Slowly, she came to believe that her parent's expectations of her and this school transfer were a complete mistake. Perhaps, she had never been an intelligent child.

With the completion of their sophomore year, the students were to be allocated into either the Sciences or Arts stream. Yun Jin did well in Languages, was terrible in History and her favourite subject was Physics. Her Mathematics and Chemistry left much to be desired, and she was middling in English and Politics. Understandably, she took a long time to decide on her major.

One day after school, she was passing the doorway of the class which was chocked full of boys and was heading towards the ladies at the end of the corridor when she heard "... What rubbish! I'm obviously choosing the Sciences! Who doesn't know that only nerdy girls and those terrible in their studies would enrol in Arts...". This was followed by the raucous laughter of quite a few boys.

Yun Jin felt all the blood in her body rush to her face. Actually, she was aware that those boys were unlikely to be targeting her, but, to a young sensitive girl with low self-esteem, she felt that she was the exact "geeky and academically

poor student” they were laughing over. She turned her head back and glared hatefully but was unable to identify the boy who had passed the comment. She felt out of place since it was all boys and hurried off in the direction of the ladies.

As a result of that incident, when the final moment to declare one’s interest in Arts or Sciences came, Yun Jin chose Science without hesitation. She thought to herself, perhaps this decision would preserve her final shred of dignity.

So, in the sweltering heat of May, Yun Jin sat in a Year Three Science class, staring at chemical equations that was alien to her. She tossed the pen she was holding back into her pencil case, heaved her body back to lean against her backrest, and let out a despairing sigh. She was finally aware of how silly she was to have decided in a fit of emotion.

She knew there could only be dark days ahead.

What bothered her wasn’t merely academic work. She glanced round the filled classroom; everyone was buried in their study material and it was utterly quiet. Everyone was concentrating on their self-revision and no one was conversing with another. Yun Jin thought self-mockingly, even if she was surrounded by groups of students chattering away, she would not likely be a participant either.

This class was similar to all the other Science classes in that there was a masculine majority. After the streaming, there were 57 people in this class of which only 8 were girls. Among them, 5 were locals in the provincial capital so they did not stay in the hostel. They would return to their homes for meals before returning to the campus at night for self-revision sessions. And when those ended, would once again return home for the night.

Everyday, the city girls were most lively before morning reading periods and evening self-revision sessions. They would discuss the exciting plot details of the previous night’s drama serial and the latest style of their favourite idols in the newest MVs. They would continue with the gorgeous dress in the shop at the corner of someone’s alley or they would converse with the boys about the latest sporting news. Yun Jin would merely listen passively since she hadn’t any knowledge on such matters anyway. She existed on the fringe of their colourful existence and everyday after self-revision sessions, she would return to her hostel where she faced a bed and four walls.

Since most of the students were locals who did not have to live in the school hostel, the hostel was very simply furnished. The hostel residents were just like Yun Jin; they were either from the nearby counties or villages. They were mostly similar, having a quiet disposition and a wooden expression. Even when they gathered back in the dormitories at night, there was little conversations. The only thing of note was that often in the dead of the night or in the wee hours of the morning, one could make out light coming from under the blankets.

The other two female classmates were Yun Jin's dormitory mates. They were called Mo Yu Hua and Zhou Jing. But unlike Yun Jin, they entered the school because they had performed well in the nationwide examination. Furthermore, they were still very competent in their studies and were always mugging. They regarded Yun Jin with a touch of scorn in their eyes. Yun Jin found this to be expected. They were all county kids yet she could not even compare to them since they entered through "proper channels".

Mo Yu Hua was chubby and looked plain. Still she was the one of the most diligent in class and hardly smiled. Solving problems and memorizing words were second nature to her. It cannot be said that she was difficult to get along with though; sometimes she was even willing to share some of her boiled water with Yun Jin.

"People like us, apart from studying with all our hearts, what chance do we have of getting out of a farming future back in the county?" This was the only time that Mo Yu Hua shared her thoughts with Yun Jin so openly.

On the other hand, Zhou Jing was a petite and upright girl. She was always ready to help out. She liked to run ahead of the teachers and would always rush to dust the blackboard. She also liked to join in the conversations of the city girls but was never fully accepted. However, she was pretty popular amongst the boys and was neither close to nor ignored Yun Jin.

Yun Jin once overheard one of the female classmates, Meng Xue, telling a boy "It's not that we don't like to talk to those county girls but there really is nothing in common. We can't be talking about livestock and arable land right?"

Indeed, Yun Jin agreed there was no common topic. So she kept to herself and was nothing like the spirited girl back in her hometown.

As for the boys, now that the “sea” was comparatively larger, it was only natural that there were better-looking “fishes”. But at this awkward age, the young lads still had not grasped the concept of gentlemanliness. Even when it came to filling their cups with water, the boys would jostle with the girls. What really took the cake was the boys would refer to all eight female classmates as the eight dinosaurs. They were nothing like the romantic male leads in romance novels.

When Yun Jin looked in the mirror, she saw a plain girl in a uniform that was washed so often the material had thinned out and the colour a fainter blue. Even she felt that the story of Cinderella is ridiculous nonsense. Who is Cinderella, a girl who has everything except money? Although ill-fated before meeting the prince, at least she is kind-hearted, adorable and beautiful. Although, they were both poor, she had awkward character, average grades and nothing particularly winsome going for her. Hence, even if the prince by chance walked past her, would only treat her as a passerby.

Yun Jin gave a few self-deprecating laughs and was determined to deny herself all thoughts of youthful passion.



Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 2

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 2

[July 5, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [19 Comments](#)



I'm a huge sucker for meet-cutes. Some may be incredibly romantic, others simple and casual. Whatever form they take, I always take special note of it because it sets future events in motion. And while saving-a-damsel-in-distress is predictably common, *distressing-the-damsel* surely isn't.

Our male protagonist Cheng Zheng makes a proper entrance in this chapter though regrettably he doesn't make a grand, gallant one. But character growth is always essential to plot development so let's be patient with our young lad shall we?

Chapter 2

“Would it kill you to be gentler?”

When Yun Jin pushed her chair backwards, it had connected with the desk behind her and a boy behind grumbled in annoyance. Knowing that her actions had disturbed her classmate, she immediately sat up straight and apologized softly without turning her head back.

However, the boy had no intention of letting the matter rest so easily. Taking full advantage of his tall height, he rose out of his chair and snuck a glance at Yun Jin’s Chemistry practice questions laid out on her desk and said with a haughty air, “I wondered what could have provoked you, could it be a failed relationship? Turns out, it’s just a question that stumps you.” Having said that, he bent over Yun Jin again and said “Let me take a look. Ha! How can you not know how to answer this? You can’t be serious, come on!”

Yun Jin was embarrassed and annoyed. Still she maintained her silence as she consciously leaned away from his overarching head to keep a distance. However, that awful boy appeared fixated on giving her a hard time as he teased her relentlessly in a loud voice that drew the attention of classmates in their vicinity.

“Su Yun Jin, what’s your brain good for then? This is a whole new level of stupidity.” Su Yun Jin could not maintain her composure any longer as his words wounded her. She was extra sensitive of her grades.

She turned around in an instant with a face filled with indignant rage. She glared hatefully at that person. The antagonist sat back in his chair leisurely and tilted his chin to meet her eyes with a defiant expression that was just begging to be punched. It was as if he was silently challenging her *“What are you going to do about it?”*

If looks could kill, Yun Jin’s death glares would have pierced his body multiple times over and each one at a lethal spot but she had no such luck in reality. She balled up her fist behind her back silently and forced herself to take deep breaths. She then slowly turned her head back, bowed her head and pretended to be deep in thought over the unsolved question.

He guessed right, she really didn’t dare rebut him and she certainly didn’t want to draw attention to herself by escalating the matter.

Cheng Zheng, you annoying fellow. Yun Jin had lost count of the number of times she had fantasized about shredding his dignity in front of all their peers.

Sitting in front of him was the worst mistake she had ever made and she kicked herself over it frequently. It all began as the second semester of year three commenced. The time required for the teacher to be physically present in class to teach was significantly decreased as students increasingly spent their time on self-revision. Hence, their young teacher-in-charge decided to change the seating plan according to the students' wishes. Naturally, those who were chummier and had more things in common would group up and choose to sit in the same area. Since she wasn't particularly close to anyone, Yun Jin let her peers choose their seats first before finally settling on one of the unoccupied ones.

When it was her turn to choose, there was not many seats left and most of them were at the back. She did not like to gather with students who were excessively noisy so she chose to sit beside Song Ming. He was an introverted short boy with myopia. For a Science stream student, his command of the English language was surprisingly excellent.

Sitting directly behind her was the "reason" why girls watched the nightly Sports news punctually and faithfully. The only reason why Yun Jin dared to sit in front of him was although he was often enveloped in the endless chattering of girls, he was not a noisy person himself. At the very least, he was described by most as frequently oscillating between active and passive moods. On the sporting ground, he was aggressive and superior. Yet when it came to studies, he was quiet and focused and his results were excellent. Although he had the aloofness of a top student, he was basically the sort who wouldn't bother you unless one upsets him.

Having taken this into consideration, Yun Jin happily claimed that fateful seat as hers. In fact, while she was unpacking, she stole glances out of her peripheral vision to check everyone's reaction. Song Ming merely glanced at her wordlessly. That guy behind her did not even react or acknowledged her existence. This was perfect for Yun Jin as she sighed with relief and took out her study material.

At that moment, a boy's voice chimed in "Ah Zheng, don't you dislike it when girls sit in front of you?"

Yun Jin stared blankly in the direction of the voice, at a boy named Zhou Zi Yi. He who was one of the few tight buddies Cheng Zheng had. Yun Jin had yet to react when she heard Cheng Zheng spit out “She’s considered a girl?” as he continued to pour over his practice book.

.....

She stared at Cheng Zheng at the same time as he raised his head to glance at her. Now, Yu Jin was certain that he was talking about her.

Was this the kind of thing a model student would say? Yun Jin was perplexed and simply could not recall any incident where she might have upset this boy of few words.

“What do you mean?” She turned and faced him.

“What what do you mean?” He looked up at her innocently.

“Who were you referring to when you said she doesn’t count as a girl?”

“I was talking about you. Why? Do you need proof?”

Quite a few boys laughed deviously.

Yun Jin was burning with rage! It was the first time she felt acutely that a person’s image and his character could be worlds apart. This handsome face ignited so much hatred in her in an instant. The majority of the classmates who were tidying their new desks all turned and looked in her direction, eagerly awaiting what happened next. The boring, mundane life of a year three student lacked this kind of excitement but Yun Jin had no wish to be the lead in such a show. She hated being teased and hated even more being the centre of attention.

Forget it, she consoled herself, just take it as having been bitten by a rabid dog. She coldly turned her body and ignored him completely.

“Hey Su Yun Jin ...” Someone simply could not accept her peaceable manner of dealing with things. “Why are you named Su Yun Jin? Is it the same Yun as pregnancy?” (**Su Yun Jin’s name is written 苏韵锦. However, 韵 which means harmonious and rhythmic, is a homonym to 孕 which means pregnant.*)

Once again, there was a flurry of laughter. Yun Jin felt she was going insane!

She was so used to being a wallflower in class and was happy to be relegated to the background. But the more you tried to avoid something, the more you had to confront it face-on as was happening right then.

Yun Jin stood up straight and looked down at him. “Cheng Zheng have I offended you before?”

By now, her eyes were red rimmed and she was trying hard to control her shaking voice. She was determined not to let the floodgates burst their teary banks.

“Oh no, Ah Zheng, you made our ‘little miss’ here cry.” Zhou Zi Yi yelled excitedly in his corner as he actively fanned the flames.

Hearing that, Cheng Zheng also stood up and bent his body forward ever so slightly. He studied her face carefully “Are you really crying?”

His expression was quite serious, as if whether she cried or not was very important to him.

Yun Jin could not figure out how a person can be so perverted, deliberately treated other people’s misery as entertainment.

“I will not cry over the likes of you.” Yun Jin fled the classroom and pretended not to hear the excited twittering from behind her.

From that moment on, Cheng Zheng and her established a feud. She had tried to swap her unfortunate seating but she could not bring herself to seek out the teacher over such an incident. She could only look forward to the next time they had another opportunity to change seats.

Yun Jin just didn’t understand. Cheng Zheng was not one to raise a ruckus so why was he so cruel only towards her and create trouble without cause?

The phrase “only towards her” would appear to suggest feelings of infatuation but Yun Jin was not so naïve as to think that Cheng Zheng felt that way towards her. She didn’t like reading romance novels, and she especially hated bad-boy characters who teased those they liked. The disgust Cheng Zheng had for her emanated from him in waves and could not be interpreted any other way. If a person were to try to convince her that this was how a boy was trying to show that he cared for her, Yun Jin would have thought that person was mental!

Luckily, no one even came close to such an abstract interpretation of their special relationship. “Special” was an understatement, he clearly hated her.

In that manner, three months of sitting on pins and needles passed. Everyday, other than feeling vexed over her revision, she also had to brace herself for whatever mischief he had up his sleeves to torture her.

She hated the stench that came from behind her when he returned from soccer and would scrunch up her nose in disgust when he deliberately tried to get close.

She hated when he stuck his long legs past the boundaries of his desk during lessons and rest them on her chair legs. He would also frustratingly rock himself such that her chair would wobble in tempo and she would get motion sickness.

She hated that he viewed disturbing her as natural yet when she troubled him just a pip, just like when she backed up her chair into his desk, he would react so aggressively and disproportionately to her crime.

How she hated him and his cronies calling her ‘little miss’, as though their being born in the city made them of a higher station in life than her. She especially hated his haughtiness when he mocked her “Su Yun Jin, you don’t even know this?”

Of course, Yun Jin knew that the best method of dealing with such people was to pretend they did not exist and treat their every prank with nonchalance.

She was no pushover but she did not want unnecessary trouble.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 3

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 3

[July 6, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [18 Comments](#)



Having suffered an appalling, character-assassinating introduction, we now delve into Cheng Zheng's version of events. Though his flawed reasoning doesn't make his actions excusable, it certainly provides us with a better understanding of him.

Tsk *boys*.

By the way, all the pictures in this project are courtesy of Peanuts amazing sifting skills! The classroom frame yesterday simply cannot be bested. Please do

thank her for all the effort she's put in to make the posts less dreary (freeing me of time to focus solely on translating teehee). Thanks again Peanuts!

Chapter 3

While Cheng Zheng was used to Yun Jin's same old routine of glaring and turning her back on him, his eyes would betray momentary disappointment whenever he faced her stiffly straightened back yet again.

The day she had forcefully leaned back onto his desk, the abruptness had caused his pen to rake sharply over his worksheets. Despite that, all he noticed was her hair on his desk.

*Loosening her hair in the evening
Letting them cascade like rapids down her shoulders
As she came to rest on a gentleman's knee
There's nothing lacking in this scene*

Language was not Cheng Zheng's forte but these lines had emerged from the recesses of his mind, shocking even himself. Thus, he instinctively tossed out some insulting phrases to shift the focus of his mind. He mocked her as stupid and while she was obviously infuriated, she had forced herself to ignore him.

Cheng Zheng, you've messed up once again, he thought to himself. He realised that he hoped she would ask him "Could you please explain..." just as the other girls did, they with their expectant gaze. But she never once sought his help and he knew she never would. This girl who liked to press her lips together and was as silent as a shadow, went everywhere with her eyes cast on the ground. Actually, Su Yun Jin had a beautiful pair of eyes. If not for that fateful day, he would never have noticed it ...

That day in their sophomore year, he was hanging out with Zi Yi and some others in the corridor outside the classroom when Zi Yi asked him "Ah Zheng, are you electing to study in the Arts or Science stream?"

He had answered without thinking, "...What rubbish, of course I'm studying Science! Who doesn't know that only nerdy girls and people with poor results study Arts...".

Suddenly, he noticed a girl with a bowed head who had earlier walked past them turn around abruptly and stare in their direction. She had a unique

expression. Her fair skin betrayed a curious blush and her pair of intense eyes seemed to burn with rage. She was unbelievably captivating.

This was the first time Cheng Zheng had carefully studied a girl but her line of vision never landed on him. In fact, she had spun round quickly and reverted to her bowed head posture before continuing in her steps.

“Hey, who was that girl?” he had prodded Zi Yi. Alas, Zi Yi had been slow on the uptake and stared curiously in the direction he was pointing at while asking “Which one? Who is it?”

Cheng Zheng had glanced in the direction she had taken once again but could only see the neighbouring class boys causing a ruckus. This was followed by the mood-dampening bell signalling the start of lessons.

That night, his mind was consumed with the image of that pair of intense eyes. When he awoke with a startle in the middle of the night, he noticed a cool, sticky patch on his trousers. 17-year-old Cheng Zheng had cursed under his breath as he went to wash-up his trousers, but his heart was completely bewildered.

From that moment on, he would roam the corridors after school in search of that familiar silhouette. But even up till the end of sophomore year, he had not met her again. It was only until year three post-streaming commenced that he found her; they were now fellow classmates. It seemed so surreal. The student population had been the proverbial haystack and she, the needle! After learning more of her background, Cheng Zheng found it ridiculous that she had been in the neighbouring class all that time yet prior to that incident, he had not noticed her at all.

Soon, Cheng Zheng realized that he not noticing her before had a logical explanation. This girl was so adept in keeping to herself that she seemed to blend in with the shadows.

She pressed her lips together often out of habit and liked to cast her eyes on the ground. She was so silent that people often forgot that she existed. Furthermore, she didn't seem to take particular note of the people around her. Including him. She never once turned up to cheer him on at ball games like the other girls did. He even purposely strolled past her desk on countless

occasions, but she never once reacted to him, not even giving a toss of her hair.

Sometimes, he would patiently eavesdrop as the girls discuss soccer animatedly although laughably, he could tell they didn't even grasp the role of a striker. He hoped she would give their silly conversation one interested glance at the very least, but she never did.

Cheng Zheng had tried to fight against the attention he was giving Su Yun Jin. After all, she was merely one of the 'little missus' that Zi Yi and the rest made fun of. She was homely, not a striking beauty and not particularly likeable.

Once, when the guys had a bro-talk, one boy had assessed the 'eight dinosaurs' and mentioned that "Actually when Su Yun Jin dresses up, she's actually quite easy on the eyes." He instantly shot back "A sow is also easy on the eyes when dressed up well." They had all dismissed it as Su Yun Jin being an eyesore to him, but only he knew that he did not care for another guy rating her. She was his personal treasure which he didn't want others peeking at.

Thus, everyday during class time, he would force himself not to take any notice of her, yet all the while hoping he would catch her eye. He had despaired until the day of the new seating arrangement. When she hesitated over claiming the seat in front of him, Cheng Zheng's heart had beat so fast that he froze and could only pretend to be concentrating on his study as his mind was a complete blank.

He never did like girls sitting near him, them noisy and troublesome creatures. Even when Meng Xue, who was a good gal pal of his, had suggested sitting in front of him, he had chased her off but Su Yun Jin was an exception. He was almost afraid that if he raised his head too excitedly as she approached, he would scare her off.

When Zi Yi yelled out, he cringed internally and without thinking, said those nasty words that hurt her. When she glared hatefully at him, she once again became stunningly intense that she took his breath away.

He was ironically glad even though she had looked at him with contempt. So this was what it took for her to notice his existence and give him her undivided attention. He caught on quick and started to find fault with her over every silly

issue. He rather she detested him than ignore him.

Su Yun Jin, Su Yun Jin. Cheng Zheng liked the name. It was easy on the lips and reminded him of the joys of eating cotton candy. But how unfair was it that she turned his world topsy-turvy when she didn't appear to be affected in the least?

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu, You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 4

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 4

[July 6, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [17 Comments](#)



Our Cheng Zheng finally makes a bold move in revealing his feelings. We've seen what both leads feel about each other so how would dear Yun Jin respond?

As some of you may know, You Are Still Here has 2 versions in circulation. One is the original which I'm translating and the other is the revised edition that has roughly the same plot but follows a more complex timeline with additional scenes. Most of us who have read both versions feel that the original version, despite its deficiencies, is nonetheless the better one. Since this is the original online text, it has some missing pieces here and there. But Peanuts will fill in the gaps in accordance with the original published text. Thanks, Peanuts!

Chapter 4

Naturally, Su Yun Jin was oblivious to Cheng Zheng's internal turmoil. She was consumed with worry over her father's health; he had liver disease and was deteriorating day by day. His condition was so bad that he had significant weight loss and couldn't even teach anymore. When she had spoken to her mother over the phone, the sniffing on the other end caused Yun Jin's heart to sink even

deeper.

Yun Jin had asked to return home to visit her father but her mother had choked back her sobs and refused. She reasoned that it was during the critical examination period and Yun Jin should focus on acing it.

Yun Jin was despondent. Not only was she unable to be by her father's side during his time of need, she wasn't even able to boast good results to cheer him up. She was a complete failure!

After the phonecall, she felt restless during the evening self-revision session. She couldn't pinpoint if it was bodily discomfort or heartache. Suddenly, she felt a gush of warmth between her thighs. She had forgotten it was that time of the month again.

She forced herself to concentrate until the break when she then fished out a sanitary pad. However, she was annoyed that her entire uniform didn't have a pocket large enough to hide the pad to make it less conspicuous. She then had a brilliant idea! She stuffed the pad within the pages of a textbook before heading straight for the ladies.

As her head was bent low and she was in such a mad hurry, she didn't see where she was going and bumped head-on into someone at the classroom exit.

"Su Yun Jin! Are you in a rush to reincarnate or what?"

When she heard the familiar sound of Cheng Zheng's annoying voice, she felt even more woozy. She desperately wanted to pass him but he deliberately blocked her path.

"Woaaah look at you. You look so pale. Did you see something unclean?"

"Could you step aside? I need to go to the ladies."

"Why are you carrying your textbook to the toilet?!"

Yun Jin's face became even paler. Without responding, she managed to slip past him through the gap between him and the door.

Cheng Zheng saw that something was up and snatched the textbook.

"You're so weird. Who brings a textbook to the toilet? You must ..." He hadn't even finished speaking when Yun Jin lunged wildly at him, startling him. He

utilised his height to his advantage and deftly avoided her. Alas, Yun Jin was set on getting her book back and with both of them grabbing at it, the innocent book on idioms fell onto the floor dramatically and a white pack fell out from between the pages.

Cheng Zheng stared at the object dumbfounded for a full five seconds as Yun Jin stared unwaveringly at him. Shocked, embarrassed, furious, coupled with all the indignation she had suffered and suppressed all this while, plus the bodily discomfort she was experiencing and the worry she had for her father ... all the negative emotions erupted in her like a volcano. She slowly bent over to pick up her sanitary pack, dusted the dirt off and right before everyone's eyes, smashed it right into Cheng Zheng's face and yelled " Here, if you want it so bad I'll give it to you!"

The classroom was stunned into a deafening silence.

When Cheng Zheng finally came to his senses, that poor packet had already slid down his chiseled nose and past his slightly parted lips and had fallen onto the floor a second time. The perpetrator had already fled the scene with the speed of an athlete.

Acting on impulse, Cheng Zheng picked it up and raced after her.

Yun Jin wasn't heading to the ladies but to the female dormitories. As it was located a distance away, Cheng Zheng was able to catch up to her midway. He grabbed firmly at her sleeves, forcing her to stop. Yun Jin levelled a look at him breathlessly with messy hair and a tearstained face.

Cheng Zheng was taken aback by her tears. He didn't know why he had chased after her but he had felt that he should say something. Or rather, he *must*! But with her only standing mere centimetres away with tears coursing down her face, he was at a complete loss for words. After wrecking his brains over an agonizing period, he managed to eke out "... This .. Uh ... I hear ... You girls can't undergo strenuous physical activity sometimes else you'll have stomach cramps..."

Yun Jin shook her head, completely aghast at the mad person in front of her. Her tears flowed even faster and more furiously.

"Cheng Zheng, what do you want from me?" She was now a much calmer than

earlier. She was thoroughly exhausted from both trying to recall an instance when she had offended him and being extremely tolerant of his ways. She was puzzled as to why he was so relentless.

“Why ... Did you turn around and look at me in the hallway back then but later act as though you’ve never seen me? Tell me, why?!” In the heat of the moment, Cheng Zheng blurted out the question that had been tormenting him all along.

Yun Jin had no idea what he was saying. “I’ve never met you prior to being classmates!”

How is it that one had obsessed over a person but the latter had felt nothing in return? Cheng Zheng had never encountered a situation like this before. He had seen with his own eyes that she had glanced backwards that day. If she had not seen him, who could she have been looking at?

As it was their evening self-revision session, there was no one else on the pathway. The glow from the streetlamps elongated their shadows. A night breeze blew past ever so often, swirling up fallen leaves with a soft rustle that did nothing to hide their quickened breathing from all the running.

Yes Cheng Zheng, what is it you want?, he thought to himself. Before his brain could come up with an answer, his lips had already landed on her eyelids. He kissed her tears away before moving on to her lips, clumsily twisting either way. Only when his inner thigh sent him signals of pain did he pull back.

Yun Jin wrestled free from his grasp and forcefully wiped her lips. She was in disbelief. She had no idea what to say in such an awkward situation and could only think of continuing on her way back.

This time, Cheng Zheng didn’t chase after her. He stared as her figure grew smaller in the distance before saying “Yun Jin, I don’t want anything. I just want you to notice me.”

He wasn’t sure if she heard him but he felt liberated!

When he returned to class, he was met with curious stares including that of Zi Yi. Zi Yi slung his arm around Cheng Zheng’s shoulders and asked in a low voice “Bro, you didn’t sock her in the face or anything right?”

“What nonsense!” Cheng Zheng smacked his arm off his shoulder and couldn’t

be bothered with such a lame query. Zi Yi smiled dryly before saying “Pardon my saying this but don’t take it to heart. Any guy would feel embarrassed in such a situation.”

“Mind your own business!” Cheng Zheng smiled as he strolled to his seat. He was basking in his reverie and couldn’t stop thinking of Yun Jin’s sweet lips. As his thoughts and heart were elsewhere, he was oblivious to the looks of pity his classmates were sending his way.

Zi Yi mumbled behind him “This fellow must be under some dark voodoo. He was humiliated by some country bumpkin yet he’s smiling so radiantly. He can’t have been angered till he lost his marbles right?”

Even when self-revision session concluded, Su Yun Jin did not make a reappearance. When the teacher on duty came to take attendance, Mo Yu Hua covered for her by reporting her unwell.

Cheng Zheng stared at the empty seat in front of him and couldn’t calm his wildly beating heart all night.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 5

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 5

[July 7, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [19 Comments](#)



After the excitement of chapter 4, we see how Cheng Zheng's and Yun Jin's relationship has changed since then. Alas, all is not well on the romantic front as a major misunderstanding arises...

Chapter 5

In their classmates' eyes, Cheng Zheng's and Yun Jin's relationship didn't change post 'sanitary pad incident'. Cheng Zheng still messed with her and Su Yun Jin wouldn't react but maintain her silence. Everyone knew not to bring up that incident again, not that anyone even dared to. The matter was glossed over, as though it had never happened. But Cheng Zheng was worried deep down; what had transpired between them should have altered their relationship. What was worse was he couldn't read Yun Jin's expression and the more she kept silent, the more unsettled he felt.

Sometimes Cheng Zheng wished she would turn nasty and perhaps even slap him or call him a jerk. Then perhaps he would feel better. It would also prove that the kiss really did happen and wasn't a figment of his imagination. Whether she overheard his parting words, whether she knew how he really felt about her, whatever it was, she shouldn't be so indifferent.

Cheng Zheng no longer fired vicious words at her but he still loved to rock her chair. When she would turn back with a furrow, he would grin at her. She was lithe, and sometimes, he could just make out her white bra-straps under the blue uniform thinned-out from countless washings. Cheng Zheng always reigned in his thoughts before they got out of hand; as it was, everytime he caught a glimpse his face would flush and his heart would palpitate madly. Many years later, whenever Cheng Zheng recalled those summer days in year three, how he would look at her from behind, he would feel nostalgic.

However infatuated Cheng Zheng was with her, he could not deny that Yun Jin was no good at her studies. In fact, he could not remember a time when she had passed Math class. What was even more exasperating was that whenever she got stuck with a problem sum, she would merely stare at her paper when there he was behind her practically screaming internally *ask me ASK ME!* And when she simply could not solve it, she would only turn to Song Ming for guidance but never him.

Now Song Ming might have topped in English, but his grasp on Math and Chemistry was just average. Cheng Zheng would eavesdrop agonizingly as Song Ming tried to guide Yun Jin but all he would make out of it was a bunch of longwinded nonsense that got Yun Jin nowhere. Funnily enough, both Yun Jin and Song Ming remained calm even though their discussions never made Yun Jin any wiser. It was Cheng Zheng, the witness to the proceedings, who was all agitated.

Finally, one day, he couldn't stand seeing Su Yun Jin pondering over another classic ten-year-series algebra sum. When he passed her desk during break time, he tossed a sheet of paper detailing the steps to solving it as well as the thought process on her desk before making a quick escape. When he returned to his seat however, he found her approaching him holding the same piece of paper up.

Before she could speak, he interjected quickly with a beetroot face, "Don't

overthink this. I just can't endure stupidity."

Yun Jin replied casually "You're the one overthinking things. I just want to clarify what you wrote."

"Puahaha!" The pair turned in the direction of the chuckle. It was Song Ming who was laughing. When he made eye-contact with them however, he gestured for them to please continue before immersing himself in his study material once again.

Cheng Zheng ignored him and took the paper from Yun Jin's hold. "Which word can't you make out? Sigh, you just won't admit you're stupid. Oh this word is..."

In the following days, the students sitting in their vicinity were astounded to observe that Su Yun Jin's and Cheng Zheng's interactions had increased *and* improved. Whenever she was stumped in English, she would turn to Song Ming for help. When she was baffled by any of the other subjects, she would invariably turn to Cheng Zheng with a low voice.

Although Cheng Zheng always looked as though he was irritated by her requests, he was always meticulous in his explanations. He had no patience however. Should Yun Jin remain clueless or unable to follow his explanations, he would become testy. In such moments, Su Yun Jin would not argue or converse with him any further and would simply turn her back on him, allowing him to continue stewing in his impatience. But before a half-hour was up, Cheng Zheng would poke Yun Jin in her back and initiate conversation with a "Actually, I wasn't done explaining just now, come I'll continue....."

Cheng Zheng's style of tutoring may have been rough around the edges but no one could deny that his approach to questions were always the simplest and most straightforward. Under his frequent painstaking guidance, Yun Jin had made big strides in her work. Of course, she was still nowhere close to being one of the topscorers in class, but at least she was closer to the passing mark in Math than before.

Year three was an agonizing period of non-stop mugging. As long as the National College Entrance Examinations were not over, the students dared not slacken. After Friday's afternoon class, their teacher would sometimes allow them to unwind on the sporting field. Cheng Zheng and several batchmates

would then play friendlies in the soccer court. After he had established a semblance of friendship with Su Yun Jin, Cheng Zheng would often casually invite her to watch a match.

“We are playing a friendly this afternoon. If you have nothing to do you can come watch?”

“I’m going back to the hostel to wash my hair.”

“You can wash your hair anytime! Well will you come or not? ... All the other girls in class will be there.”

Cheng Zheng’s invitation was sincere, but Yun Jin was unfortunately not reciprocative, “I know absolutely nothing about soccer, so it’s pointless for me to go.”

“If you know nothing, you can always learn! Can’t you just be interested in sports one bit? Always staying cooped up studying, no wonder you’re such a bore!” Cheng Zheng raised his voice.

Yun Jin looked at him, “Who says I’m not interested in sports? I play Go.” (*Go, also known as 围棋 wéiqí, is a boardgame comprising of black and white pieces.)

Cheng Zheng was furious and said angrily, “Su Yun Jin! If you don’t come today, I’ll really not let you off!” Although he had issued a thinly veiled threat, the truth was, Cheng Zheng had no idea what he would do if Su Yun Jin stood him up once again. He was really at her mercy.

It was dinnertime and Yun Jin sat in her dorm room eating the usual bland takeaway from the canteen. There were significantly fewer people in the dorm today. It was only she and Mo Yu Hua who was listening to an English audio tape while eating. Neither of them talked and the faint strains of excitement from the soccer court a distance away would stream in occasionally.

“You really don’t intend to go?”

“Huh?” Yun Jin stared doubtfully at Mo Yu Hua who was still plugged in to her audio tape. She couldn’t be certain that the statement was directed at her.

Mo Yu Hua plucked out her earphones and asked casually “Have you finished eating? Let’s go take a look.”

Yun Jin was very surprised because Mo Yu Hua was just like her and had never displayed interest in such activities.

"I'm really not interested." Yun Jin bent her head and started playing with the remnants of her food.

"Let's go. Just take it as you're accompanying me." Mo Yu Hua took the bowl from Yun Jin's hold and placed it on a nearby table. She then grabbed Yun Jin's wrist and led her out of the hostel.

Yun Jin followed Mo Yu Hua passively to the crowded arena with a look of helplessness. Mo Yu Hua dragged her to an advantageous viewing spot. With a myopia of 200 degrees, Yun Jin had to squint. She could just make out the two squads clad in red and white jerseys running tirelessly across the field. There was truly no lack of girls among the spectators. Whether they were focussed on the game or the athletes was anyone's guess.

She found him; he was in the white team. Yun Jin was confused that she was able to identify his physique so readily. But then again, it was no great feat even if the boys were all over the place. He was tall and lean and his tanned skin was in stark contrast to the ivory jersey and he emanated vigour. Yun Jin was really clueless about soccer but she had to admit that Cheng Zheng was mesmerizing when he played.

"On this field, how many girls are really interested in soccer? They're merely using it as an excuse to blatantly ogle and cheer for him." Mo Yu Hua calmly remarked as she gazed at the pitch.

Yun Jin waited for her to resume talking but realised that the speaker was not even looking at her but watching a certain athlete attentively. Yun Jin followed her line of vision curiously... It's him? She was shocked! There was nothing more surprising than this revelation.

Yun Jin stole another glance at Mo Yu Hua whose plain features expressed a usual stiffness. Perhaps she could sense it; Mo Yu Hua cocked her head and looked at Yun Jin as though she had caught her in the act "Seeing as I'm not interested in your popular man, you must be relieved."

Yun Jin felt her face turn warm, "He's most certainly not mine."

"I didn't even specify who "he" is. You don't really dislike Cheng Zheng do you?" Mo Yu Hua teased but she followed it up with self-mockery. "Puppy love is inevitable. Everyone might be stifled by the mountain of study material but sometimes, thoughts still wander..." She paused before adding "It's ridiculous isn't it? Even you can see that we're incompatible."

"I wasn't thinking that ..." Yun Jin was quick to deny.

"It doesn't matter if you think that or not. I sure don't want to delude myself into thinking there is a possibility between us." Mo Yu Hua continued to stare after the white-clad boy. It was as if the vocal crowd surrounding them had melted away into oblivion and in that vast space, only she and the boy existed. Yun Jin noticed for the first time what Mo Yu Hua's plain appearance was exceptionally radiant.

Yun Jin stared at the field in a daze. After Mo Yu Hua's confession, she had announced that she hadn't finished listening to her audio tape and had abandoned Yun Jin on the field.

Yun Jin still hadn't recovered from the shock of her revelation. While she interacted with Mo Yu Hua fairly more often than with others, they were both introverts. They didn't have a particularly close friendship what more a heart-to-heart chat like they just had. She couldn't understand why Mo Yu Hua would reveal a girl's closely guarded secret so readily to her. Maybe, Yu Hua had wanted validation of the possibility of such a romance. Yun Jin never thought a studious girl like Mo Yu Hua was struggling with affairs of the heart underneath that cool exterior.

She was so absorbed in her thoughts that she paid no attention to the excitement on the field. When she finally came to, most of the spectators were starting to leave. The match had ended.

She followed the crowd but had yet to pass the gates when a person drenched in perspiration caught up with her and jostled for position next to her.

"Why are you here? I thought someone wasn't interested?" Cheng Zheng purposely heckled her although he wore a huge satisfied grin. Yun Jin took a step back, unwilling to let his drops of perspiration fall onto her. She replied dully "The field doesn't belong to you. Anyone can come as they please."

“When did you arrive? How come I didn’t see you just now?”

“...”

“But you must admit that was a good goal right?” Cheng Zheng ignored Yun Jin’s non-reply and asked hopefully.

“What goal?” Yun Jin had no idea what he was talking about.

Cheng Zheng’s good mood evaporated in an instant. It was as if he was a little child awaiting praise only to meet the huge wet-blanket that was Yun Jin. In fact, he realised her gaze wasn’t even directed at him but at someone behind him.

Yun Jin studied Zhou Zi Yi who was standing not far behind Cheng Zheng. She found it hard to pair up this handsome and carefree spirit with the likes of Mo Yu Hua. She could almost comprehend Mo Yu Hua’s despondence earlier when she had looked at him. Naturally, she didn’t sense Cheng Zheng’s thunderstruck expression after he discovered the object of her attention.

Cheng Zheng was stupefied. When he thought that she had finally willingly came to watch him play, that moment of jubilation was even sweeter than when he had scored a goal. But he realised that he was never her male lead from start to end.

“Hey, let go!” Yun Jin was caught by surprise when Cheng Zheng dragged her off. There were still quite a few people milling about and they were mostly their batchmates. When Cheng Zheng had beelined for her to engage her in conversation, people had already taken note and were watching in anticipation and now with this entanglement, even more eyes were looking their way.

Yun Jin blushed a bright beetroot and used all her strength to wriggle out of Cheng Zheng’s grasp but she was no match for him. She didn’t dare cause further commotion for fear of garnering more unwanted attention and thus whispered fiercely “Cheng Zheng are you nuts? People are looking!”

Cheng Zheng tossed her arm angrily. “You’re not afraid of people looking. You’re just scared he would see aren’t you!”

Yun Jin knew this could easily be misinterpreted as a lovers’ spat and was so abashed she wanted to worm her way into the ground. She wanted to chide him

but in her emotional state, was unable to form a coherent comeback. She didn't want this to drag out any longer and wanted to leave immediately. Stat. Right away. She did not realise that her silence and avoidance of his question only hurt Cheng Zheng even more.

Before she could flee, he could not hold it in any longer and yelled "It's no use liking him! As though anyone would ever fall for you."

Yun Jin stopped dead in her tracks before upping her speed without a backwards glance.

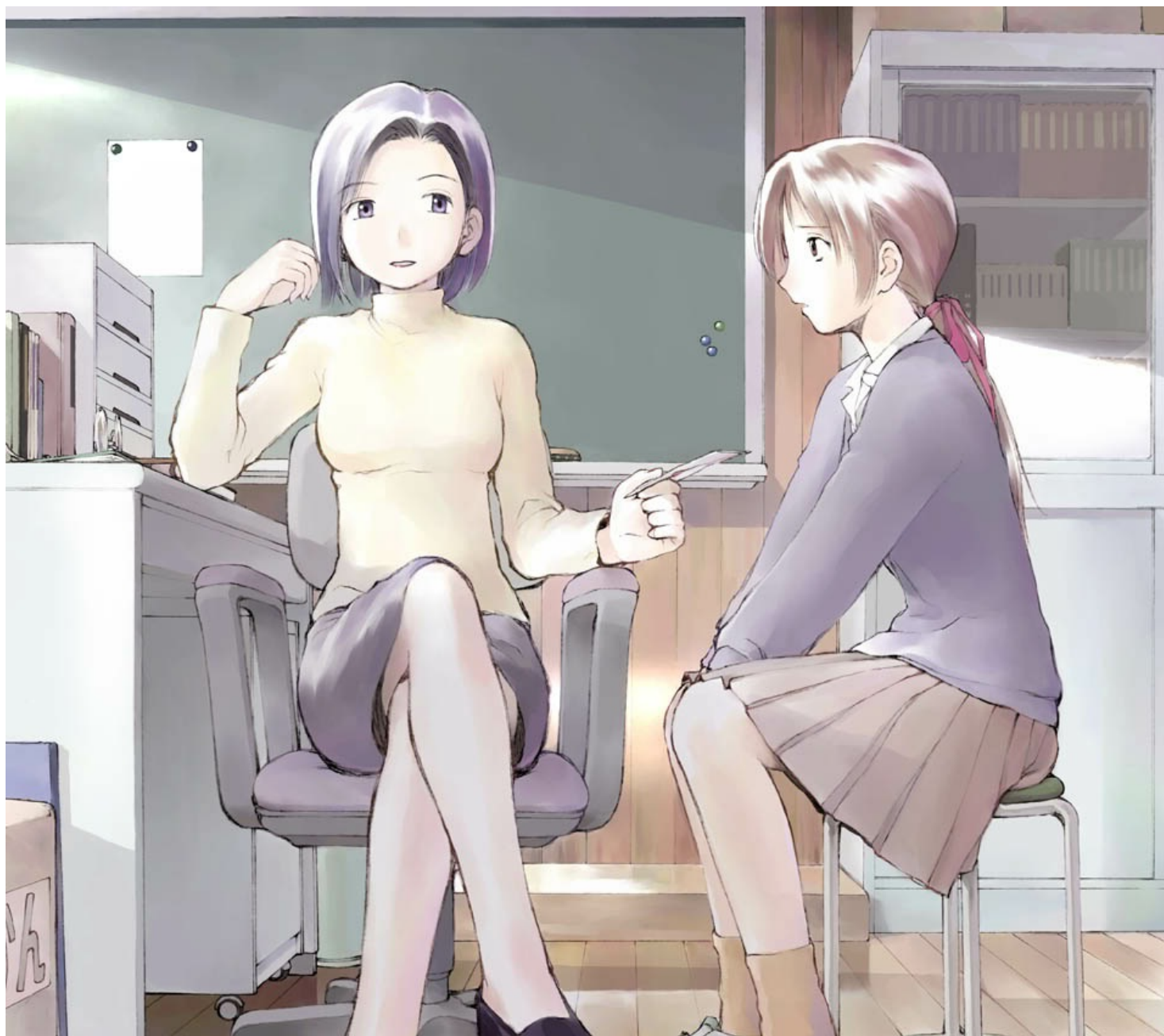
She had not looked back but Cheng Zheng knew his words had struck a chord. She affected him so greatly, how could he just let her waltz away intact? But he was unable to feel joy over his tooth-for-tooth actions. In the deepest trenches of his heart, a small voice needled him How am I incomparable to him? Zhou Zi Yi finally caught up to Cheng Zheng and slung his arm around him as was his usual habit. However, Cheng Zheng shrugged off his arm angrily. Zi Yi rubbed his nose in confusion. Had he offended Cheng Zheng?

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 6

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 6

[July 7, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [14 Comments](#)



Is it odd that even though the disciplining arm of the school finally catches up to this, uh, non-couple, it remains one of the more light-hearted scenes in the book? How our two leads react in such a situation is completely in line with their individual character ... which means silence, silence and more silence on Yun Jin's part. I swear I've never spelt silence/quiet with such irritation before.

Chapter 6

Senior high was an age of sensitivity, especially for teenagers surrounded by couplings all around. They weren't the awkward adolescents anymore but they were far from the maturity the university students possessed. For these 17, 18 year olds, no one was spared from crushes. Once it was revealed however, no one can avoid the horrible fate of being the latest sensational gossip.

In Form 3 (3)'s Science class, news of Cheng Zheng and Su Yun Jin spread at an incredible speed. It became the latest topic on everyone's lips and was brought up repeatedly in idle time.

At first, many expressed doubts that the smart, athletic, handsome Cheng Zheng who usually wanted nothing to do with the female gender would be involved with Yun Jin who was so much a wallflower that people had trouble coming up with her name.

But with eyewitness accounts of what had happened on the soccer pitch, the past interactions they had where he treated her with special care seemed to line up. All the times he had seemed irritated by her presence previously were now seen as the consequence of a lovers' tiff.

Despite the rumour mill churning and all the underground gossiping raging around them, the two protagonists seemed unmoved by the flurry. Cheng Zheng went about his daily schedule as per usual, focusing only on what he wanted to do when he felt like doing it. If anyone mentioned it, he would shoot a sharp look of *mind-your-own-business*. Similarly, the usual low-key Su Yun Jin was indifferent to all the rumours that reached her ears. Neither of them did anything to address the swirling talk and they also did not speak to each other from that incident forth.

Finally, Zhou Zi Yi couldn't contain it any further. One day when no one was around he cornered Cheng Zheng before asking hesitantly "Hey, everyone says you have a thing for that 'little miss'. Don't .. It's not true right?"

"What 'little miss'? Don't spout nonsense."

"Hey, are you defending her! Ah Zheng, you couldn't really have fallen for her could you?"

“So what if I did! She doesn’t even feel the same way about me.” Cheng Zheng replied melancholically.

Zhou Zi Yi studied Cheng Zheng’s low-spirited expression carefully and after deciding that he was neither joking nor being sarcastic said “I say, Ah Zheng, this isn’t all because of that silly sanitary pad incident right? You and her, it’s just ...”

“Don’t be ridiculous. You’re the one hung up on that. What about me and her? Oh yes ...” Cheng Zheng suddenly recalled and looked at Zi Yi in askance “That day, why was she looking at you?”

“Oh my God, how the hell should I know? I’ve never even spoken to her all my life, not even a word. Not everyone has .. such unique taste as you do. But since you mention it, it must be that she thinks I’m better-looking than you.”

“Pffft” Cheng Zheng rolled his eyes at the narcissistic fellow and was about to walk away with a can’t-be-bothered-with-you expression on his face. Zhou Zi Yi added deviously “Poor Meng Xue. Knowing that you’ve fallen for that country bumpkin, how devastated she must be.”

Cheng Zheng turned back and warned “Don’t stir nonsense.”

“You can ignore Meng Xue, but what about Old Sun? You can’t ignore his opinion. Everyone’s talking about you and Yun Jin. It’s not possible that he hasn’t heard yet.”

This observation was true though. Old Sun was their form teacher and his name was tacked on with an ‘Old’ in front by the batch. He wasn’t particularly old and had only been teaching for five years after graduating with a teaching degree. He mostly left the disciplining to their Biology teacher. Old Sun was a bachelor and after lessons, would often hang out with the boys to unwind and even participated in their soccer friendlies as an equal. But as a teacher, especially their form teacher, he would definitely not approve of young love.

“Just shut up.” Cheng Zheng’s heart sank even further.

That evening during self-revision sessions, when he saw Su Yun Jin getting called out of class to have a private conversation with Old Sun and returning even paler than usual, he knew that Zhou Zi Yi’s unfancied foretelling was being fulfilled. He wasn’t scared of having such a conversation with Old Sun himself but

he wished that she was spared. Ever since that day, she treated him as invisible. Now, she would only hate him even more.

As expected, Yun Jin had not returned to her seat for more than a minute when Cheng Zheng was called out of class by Old Sun as well. Old Sun led him to a nearby artificial mound for the interrogation. Cheng Zheng stood up straight and jammed both hands into his trouser pockets, preparing for the worse and waited expectantly for Old Sun to begin. Old Sun stared at his manner and felt a surge of frustration. A wonderful top student who was diligent and self-disciplined, never warranting any attention from the teachers, why did he lose focus with only a month to spare to the national examinations?

Old Sun cleared his throat and settled on an appropriate opening “Tell me what’s been going on between you and classmate Su Yun Jin?”

“Mr Sun, are you asking me to explain or is this a rhetorical question? If it’s rhetorical then I have nothing to say.”

Old Sun snapped back “Whatever it is, just tell me honestly, do the rumours about you and Su Yun Jin being in love have any basis to it? If not...”

“It’s true.” Cheng Zheng interrupted him calmly.

Old Sun nearly collapsed in anger. He crooked a finger at this student who was almost half-a-head taller than he was and demanded “Why?! Don’t you know it’s against the school rules to have a campus romance? This would affect your academic performance and your future do you not understand?”

“I’m also not sure why. Sir, do you know?”

Staring at Cheng Zheng’s sincere face of askance, Old Sun forced himself to take in deep breaths “Do you grasp the gravity of the matter?”

Cheng Zheng innocently replied “I have always treated this matter respectfully.”

Old Sun looked up at the heavens. Although he did not have years of teaching under his belt, he had previously encountered quite a few campus romances. When they were called out to talk, some readily denied it, others were embarrassed beyond words, but there was no one like the two of them today.

When that Su Yun Jin was called out, it began normally at first. He had yet to say a word and she was already beetroot and pressing her lips into a thin line, a perfect picture of regret. But slowly, he discerned that something was off. No matter how he expounded on the consequences and negative facets of young love or how he showered her with rationale, the lips never relaxed once. She remained silent throughout and her expression didn't even change until even he felt stupid for talking to himself. It was only then that he released her back to class. Now this topped even that experience. Cheng Zheng may be answering and asking questions in turn, but Old Sun no longer had the heart to lecture him.

"Ah Zheng, with your qualities, you can get any girl you want in university. Why must you be overeager now?" Old Sun sighed in exasperation.

Cheng Zheng wallowed in momentary silence. Old Sun continued "At your age, infatuation is pretty common ..."

"But I'm at a loss while she's unaffected. Is this normal?"

"You mean to say Su Yun Jin has no interest in you whatsoever?"

"Sir, when you spoke to her just now, what did she say?"

"She didn't say anything."

"Not even a denial?" Cheng Zheng's eye flashed with hope!

Old Sun stroked his chin "Denial? Nope she didn't ... Hey hey now wait a minute..." He finally realised his blunder "What is this? I'm telling you the cons of being in a relationship now. I'm not here to be your love consultant."

"But let's be honest here. Sir, what do you think of her?" Cheng Zheng was relentless.

"Hmm this Su Yun Jin. Well she's not particularly outstanding but on closer inspection she does have good looking features .. Okay that's enough Cheng Zheng, go back to class this instant!" Tonight, he was no match for these two.

Cheng Zheng relaxed and obediently headed back to class. He suddenly stopped with an air of defeat and said "Don't worry sir. I know what I'm doing. The examinations, I'll do my best."

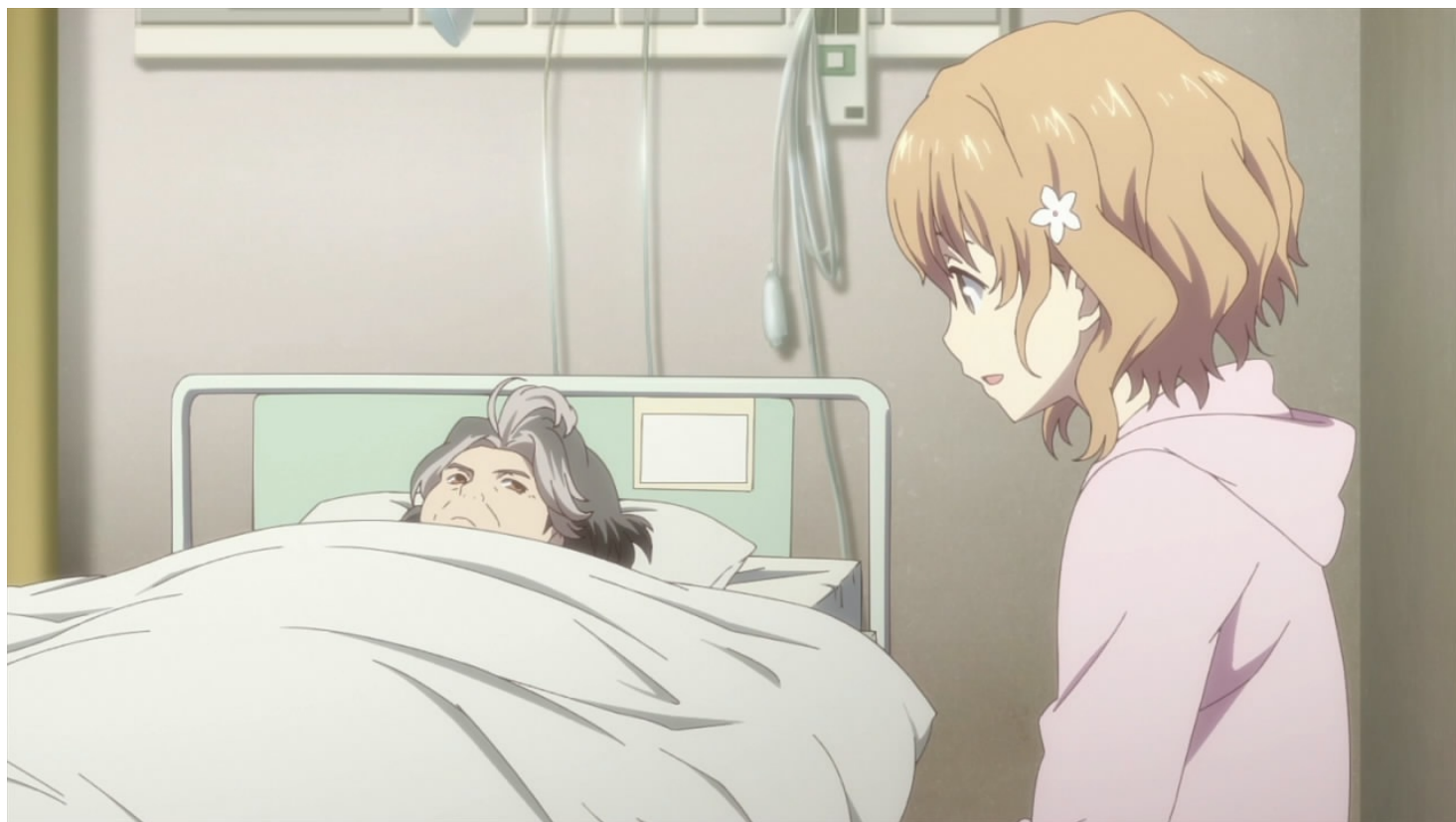
Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#),

[xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 7

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 7

[July 8, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [15 Comments](#)



It's a slower chapter but a necessary one as a plot device. The entanglement with Cheng Zheng takes a backseat as Yun Jin suffers an emotional blow.

Chapter 7

Rumours are strange things. The more you tried to clarify them, the murkier they became. Conversely, if one could steel their nerves and answer coolly with a *so what if it's real?*, rumours would lose their gossip draw.

Cheng Zheng and Su Yun Jin's rumours were no exception. Even after being swept up in the gossip squall and meeting with the teacher, both of them still staunchly declined to make a comment. Old Sun had intervened and switched their seats so the two of them had even less contact than before. Eventually, the excitement died down and the matter passed.

June was the city's monsoon season. The start of the national college entrance

examinations was fast approaching and similar to the tense atmosphere before a storm, the students were anxious and unnerved. But in Yun Jin's world, a lightning bolt of a different form had shattered her universe.

News from home had arrived; her father's liver disease was diagnosed to be end-stage liver cancer. Originally, both mom and dad had teamed up to keep her in the dark but unfortunately at this critical academic juncture, her father's condition had taken a turn for the worse. Not only did his condition fail to improve after admission to a hospital, it was no longer responsive to curative treatment so palliative care was commenced.

Seeing that they could not hide it any longer and not bearing to keep a father from seeing his beloved child one last time, Su Yun Jin was summoned home in a phone call twenty days before the examinations.

When she returned to school a week later, there was a conspicuous black thread on her uniform indicating the death of a loved one. She didn't pour out her grief to anyone; her daily schedule of self-revision, mealtimes and sleeping times were unchanged. But her eyes betrayed her loss, and her face was drained of colour.

It was unclear how it came about but her family was mired in heavy medical bills. With her mother's retrenchment and immense grief, she too had fallen ill and the news reached the school. Old Sun informed the school board of the unfortunate situation and it was decided that a fund-raiser would be held.

Naturally, Yun Jin's classmates were the most generous. Although their allowance was not much, they were generous in donating. In fact, they had organised a special ceremony where Yun Jin stood on the podium and received the donations formally from their class representative Meng Xue who softly consoled her with a few words.

Yun Jin had received the envelope with both hands, taken a deep bow and expressed her gratitude when there was a sudden flash. The school photography club had captured the touching moment of the close-knitted class stepping up for one of their own in need; this had to be included in the school newsletter!

From start to end, Yun Jin's eyes were downcast and no one could read her expression under the shadow of her long lashes.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 8

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 8

[July 8, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [19 Comments](#)



This chapter finally enlightens us on dear Yun Jin's point of view. While most of us have been firmly backing Cheng Zheng, I must say that her perspective makes sense too. *Dammit.*

Now I'm confused, which protagonist am I hurting for?

Chapter 8

The dreaded examinations finally descended upon them in the thick of a storm and passed by in a whirl of 2.5 days. Looking back, it felt surreal; all the hardships, anxiety, endurance of Year Three came to a head in a matter of 2.5 days.

The night the examinations ended, the majority of their graduating class took the initiative to hold wild, celebratory parties. Cheng Zheng's class booked the suite of a nearby karaoke lounge. Although it was only meant to hold thirty-odd

people, they squeezed in fifty.

It was a heartening view. The relief and perhaps disappointment of completing the examinations finally had a channel of release. The atmosphere was high and many rounds of beer were ordered. Even Old Sun was a little tipsy on the couch.

After a few boys had grabbed the mike and sang-shout, the melancholic tune of Red Dust started to play. One boy yelled “Cheng Zheng, here’s the song you chose.”

Cheng Zheng stood up and received the mike. A few boys started to cat-call and tease “It’s a duet ... Who’ll the female singer be? Quick, pick one!”

Su Yun Jin who had been sitting quietly in a corner, hadn’t fully grasped the situation when numerous hands dragged her out from the shadows. What was worse was some boorish boy even gave a finishing shove causing her to lose her balance and colliding straight into a person standing in the middle of the dimly lit room. The person she staggered into was quick to steady her and that was met with a deafening round of whistling and cheering.

Su Yun Jin couldn’t care about the ache in her forehead from the collision and was so mortified she couldn’t decide if it was more appropriate to say “Thank you” or “I’m sorry”.

While she was still scrambling to find her balance, she was already thinking of pulling free of the person. However, in the midst of her struggling, she felt a hand grab hers opportunistically. Even though it was a split second, she could feel the tension in the sweaty palms which were shaking ever so slightly, as though it took the person all his energy to hold onto her.

It was as if Yun Jin was under a trance as she permitted him to continue gripping her hand. While in reality the contact was over in a few seconds, Yun Jin felt that time had stopped still then. The hand eventually released its hold and Yun Jin looked up to see Cheng Zheng’s collected expression.

Wordlessly, he extended the mike in his other hand to her.

Yun Jin’s right hand quivered before balling into a fist. She took a step back and avoided his gaze before saying with traces of apology “I’m sorry. I don’t know how to sing this song.” The dim lighting cast dancing shadows on Cheng Zheng’s

chiselled features, alternately illuminating and darkening it. However, his stoic expression remained the same and the mike was still extended in the air and he showed no inclination of lowering it.

Everyone knew that something was off but they could only look at each other in askance. No one had any idea how to break up the awkward atmosphere.

“What a coincidence. It’s my favourite song!” A slender arm emerged from behind Cheng Zheng and took the microphone. Meng Xue tilted her head and smiled widely at the screen as though she had not witness what had happened.

Yun Jin said softly “Excuse me, I need to go to the washroom.” She turned abruptly and tried to squeeze between Cheng Zheng and the tea table. He was rooted to the ground and made no attempt to move as though unwilling to pave the way for her to walk. Her shoulders collided sharply into his tensed arm, causing her to ache.

Leaving the deafening lounge, it felt like a whole other peaceful world outside.



*“... The initial laidback you
and the carefree me of my younger years
The red dust of passion eagerly swirling*

*It might have been the forces of the universe
Or the consequence of our previous reincarnations
Regardless, I'll forfeit everything just to meet you again..."*

Through the shut door, she could make out the faint lyrics. This was Yun Jin's favourite Luo Da You song. She never dared to sing openly but would only occasionally hum it. So he knew ...

She took in a sharp breath. Since she was out, she might as well use the washroom for real. Just as she rounded the corner to the washroom, Yun Jin once again collided into a person and she gasped in pain.

She rubbed her tender shoulders and looked up to see a familiar face. Zhou Zi Yi's usual smirk was replaced with a shocked and unsettled expression. Even after recognizing Yun Jin, he didn't apologise but dashed past Yun Jin as though making a hasty escape. Yun Jin turned the corner mystified and saw Mo Yu Hua's silhouette.

Mo Yu Hua could roughly make sense of what had happened. She took a few steps towards Mo Yu Hua and asked "Yu Hua, what are you doing here all by yourself?"

At the sound of a familiar voice, Mo Yu Hua turned to face Yun Jin her eyes glistening. "You saw everything right? He ... reacted as if he faced a monster."

Mo Yu Hua sighed inwardly and walked quietly to her roommate's side. After a moment of silence, she asked "You really confessed?"

Yun Jin refused to meet her gaze and smiled bitterly "So stupid of me."

"You might feel better if you cry it out." Yun Jin felt sorry for her.

"I don't want to cry." Mo Yu Hua said slowly. "I had expected this. I never thought there to be any outcome between us because even I knew it was just a crush. Really. I was only thinking of using the washroom when I bumped into him. He was tipsy. I told myself, this could be my last chance to tell him that a girl had a crush on him for the past three years and that this same girl would look at him from afar. This girl was neither pretty nor bright and maybe he never once noticed her, but she was just like any other girl nursing a crush. When I

finished, he ran.”

She paused and struggled to fix a smile on her face. “I just don’t want to graduate with this secret unrevealed because I may never see him again. Now he knows and I’ve accomplished what I wanted. What is there to be sad over?”

Yun Jin was a mixture of emotions. Even then, the faint traces of the song still haunted her “.. It’s easier to grab hold but harder to let go ... My heart should have been yours but it’s still caged within me ...” Meng Xue’s voice was melodious. Even from a distance, it was moving. Her voice was a perfect complement to Cheng Zheng’s and was further evidence of their compatibility.

Mo Yu Hua had already taken her leave. Yun Jin hurriedly escaped into the washroom, unwilling to listen to them sing any further.

Standing in front of the mirror, Yun Jin slapped cold water onto her face before scrutinizing her dripping wet reflection. She didn’t have Mo Yu Hua’s courage so she had to protect herself. Who cares if she was a hermit, as long as she was not hurt. She also lacked Mo Yu Hua’s clarity as she reasoned that once she gave him her heart she would never have it back unbroken. Hence, she would rather not have anything to do with him.

While she never once brought it up, she hadn’t forgotten the kiss that night, the kiss that burned with passion which kept her transfixed even after it long passed. No one’s heart was made of steel, certainly not hers. For a long period, she kept asking herself why he chose her from the many girls around. Of course she knew that love was unconditional and she could easily accept him just as Cinderella met and secured her prince. But the crux of the matter was, she was unwilling to be Cinderella.

Who ordained that Cinderella must be rescued by a prince? The fairytale only spoke of their happily ever after but had anyone ever considered how superficial their happiness was? No one had stopped to ask if Cinderella was willing. It seemed as though the moment her foot slipped into the glass slipper, she had no choice but to follow the prince *gratefully* back to his castle and live eternally in accordance with the royal rules. If it wasn’t for his rescue, she might have had to continue washing the laundry in the icy lake. But, what if Cinderella was meant to meet an ordinary fisherman that way? What if they fell in love and she was

able to live with him, away from the clutches of her evil step-family? Then the world would not have their Cinderella princess but a mere woman who was loved by a simple fisherman.

And she, Su Yun Jin, despite her reticence and low self-esteem, was her own princess. She didn't want to be in a high profile relationship where the two leads were oddly imbalanced in social standing. She didn't want to be that Cinderella and endure talk of "How fortunate Su Yun Jin is that Cheng Zheng should fancy her." Why didn't anyone once mention how lucky Cheng Zheng was to like someone like Yun Jin? Each blossom is unique in this world. Cheng Zheng may be everyone's ideal man but even if she was merely a roadside wild flower, she was still special in her own right.

When her father had passed away and her family in dire straits, it proved her mentality right. She was grateful to him as she was towards every classmate that had lent a helping hand. When Meng Xue passed her that envelope and informed her sweetly "Su Yun Jin, we are all very sad for your loss. Cheng Zheng and I have donated our entire month's allowance to you", Yun Jin knew that it was impossible between Cheng Zheng and her. She could politely and humbly receive the good intentions of strangers but she never wanted the handout of someone she loved, absolutely not!

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 9

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 9

[July 9, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [15 Comments](#)



The picture says it all! Sadly Yun Jin is not an easy girl to decipher as we know exasperatedly by now.

What could she mean by this?

Chapter 9

When Meng Xue's reflection appeared in the mirror, Yun Jin wasn't in the least bit surprised. She wiped off the droplets of water on her face with a cold smile. There must have been something in the air that evening as it seemed everyone had something to say. It felt as though once the day had passed, there would be no more opportunity.

"What a coincidence to see you here Su Yun Jin."

Yun Jin smiled. She was mentally prepared as she waited patiently for Meng Xue to begin.

"Cheng Zheng is unhappy ... I grew up with him and have never seen him like this. Perhaps he has never encountered difficulties in his life seeing as he has always managed to get what he wants so he can't seem to let this go."

Meng Xue combed through her long hair with her slender fingers and smiled sadly at Yun Jin. Although she wasn't drop-dead gorgeous, she had a tall lithe physique and beautiful features. Her skin was fair and soft and she had a dazzling smile. She was generous and chatty and was respectful towards everyone and anyone. Even as a fellow member of the fairer gender, Yun Jin had to admit that this girl was the ideal woman and that the boys only included her in the 'Eight Dinosaurs' because each was too shy to reveal what they truly thought about her. Even if Meng Xue was a dinosaur, she was the cute and lovable sort.

"Do you know, when I'm bored, I love to indulge in romance stories? Cheng Zheng calls it frivolous rubbish but to me, the beautiful romance described within, even if it doesn't exist in reality, fantasizing about it is enough." Meng Xue said slowly.

"In novels, I hate to read about evil female supporting characters. The male protagonists would always fall for the fragile, demure female lead but the female second lead would always interfere to create rifts. Yet, now it appears that I'm playing that hated role." Meng Xue laughed dejectedly.

"You won't understand. I grew up with him! We lived in the same compound. Uncle was a technical professor and daddy was a team supervisor. Now Uncle is a CEO while daddy is the overall supervisor. They work in the same building and after work they often play chess together. So although Cheng Zheng was never particularly close to me, he was never far off either. He may be stubborn and competitive that sometimes even Uncle can't change his mind but he and I always got along well cause I understand him completely and I give in all the time. I thought that if I were to stay by his side in this manner, one day he would come around and love me in return. After all, he has claimed that girls are a nuisance and I'm the one closest to him. Even when we were streaming into our majors, I gave up on Arts so that I could be his classmate. I see that while he treated all girls coolly, it is because they were never the right one. After you appeared, everything changed! The moment he started acting as if he hated you, I knew even he became childish in the midst of someone he liked."

Meng Xue's eyes became misty. This was the second time Yun Jin saw someone cry that night.

"Love is really an unreasonable thing isn't it? It doesn't tell you why and

doesn't give precedence to those who came first. 18 years. I've known him 18 years! I've always liked him but 18 years cannot even compare to your 10 months. He's chosen you, even 10 stallions can't force him to alter course. I'm even treated as an 'outsider' and there's nothing I can do about it."

Yun Jin said not a word throughout. Her silence caused Meng Xue to be at a complete loss.

"Su Yun Jin, you must think I've come to beg you. In actual fact, I only came to tell you a truth; even if you were to be with him, both of you won't be happy. He has a bad temper, everyone knows that. As for you, while you are always so quiet, you are also opinionated and prideful. You wouldn't ever give in. With such personalities, you'll only hurt each other. What is more, with your family background, you and him belong to completely different worlds..."

"That's enough!" While there were some things Yun Jin truly understood, it didn't mean that she liked hearing it come from another. Just like while she had never intended to accept Cheng Zheng, she was unwilling to let Meng Xue assume that her words had achieved its intended effect and cause her to beat a hasty retreat after taking their vast disparity into consideration.

Yun Jin went back to the lounge and grabbed her belongings before bidding Old Sun adieu. She was the first to leave.

The karaoke lounge wasn't far from school and the distance only required a few minutes to traverse. When she left, she saw Cheng Zheng on the couch listening to Zhou Zi Yi as he gesticulated wildly and spoke animatedly. She could almost hear him repeat what had transpired. What a jerk! Yun Jin felt sorry for Yu Hua; she didn't deserve such treatment.

The preceding days of stormy weather had passed along with the examinations. As Yun Jin was walking back to the hostel, it was already past-ten at night. The roads were still full of hustle and bustle. It was then that she realised that even though she had studied in the city for 2 years, she had never once appreciated this lively city for its beauty.

Her instincts told her that she was being followed. Yun Jin looked back to see Cheng Zheng with his sling bag walking a few paces behind. Seeing that she had discovered his presence, he walked up alongside her.

“It’s late. A girl shouldn’t be walking alone at this hour.” He kicked a small pebble in his path.

“There’s nothing to fear. See everyone’s still out and about. Has your good friend finished recounting his exciting story?” The moment the words escaped Yun Jin’s lips, she regretted it. What had that got to do with her?

Cheng Zheng looked at her wide-eyed. “Oh... That... You know too?”

Yun Jin did not reply.

“So you’re unhappy over this sort of thing?” He asked doubtfully.

Yun Jin mulled it over and said self-derisively “I have no right to be unhappy over ‘this sort of thing’. ‘This sort of thing’ is just a huge joke to the likes of you... He has the right not to accept her, but why must he treat the matter so flippantly?”

She was seldom so piercing with her words and usually refrained from revealing her innermost thoughts. Just that on this particular night, it felt like her heart was choked up and if she didn’t spill, she could scarcely bear it.

Cheng Zheng paused before he rushed ahead and blocked her path. He glanced down at her “Zi Yi is not a bad person. Regarding tonight, he’s just too shocked. But Su Yun Jin, I never knew you could feel unjustified for others. I am surprised.” He laughed “Aren’t you doing the same with my feelings? But who will speak up for me?”

He was very much taller than her and Yun Jin felt that his voice was coming from his chest. Somewhere, his words were resounding in her heart, and she did not have the heart to reject him cruelly.

“For my university application, I will be applying for Q University. That is, if nothing goes awry. So I should be moving to Beijing once summer vacation is over. Yun Jin, come with me.” He may have spoken calmly but anyone could sense his hope and desperation as he staked everything on this one plea.

He searched her face for any sort of reaction. After some time, Yun Jin raised her gaze wearing a radiant smile that Cheng Zheng had never seen before. She didn’t reply but unexpectedly, she tiptoed and kissed him softly on the lips.

Cheng Zheng's world burst into fireworks. The busy hive of activity, the endless stream of cars and pedestrians all faded into the backdrop, all because of that one kiss.

“Cheng Zheng, this I return to you.” Before Cheng Zheng could fully react, Yun Jin had already walked some distance away.

“Don't follow me anymore.” she tossed back.

Cheng Zheng stared at her retreating back till he could see her no longer. He stood very still as though unwilling to break his trance. However, other people had a firmer grip on reality than he. When he was no longer in view, Yun Jin turned in his direction and said softly “Goodbye Cheng Zheng.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 10

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 10

[July 10, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [15 Comments](#)



The senior high chapter of their lives finally draws to a close. Yun Jin knows where Cheng Zheng is headed, heck we all do, but what does she intend to do with this nugget of information?

P.S. Might I add that Cheng Zheng's family is too adorable? Frankly, I'm sick of haughty, stuffy rich families so this is a welcome change.

Chapter 10

Post-examination, the students had to estimate the marks they would attain and apply for university accordingly even before knowing their true performance. Thus, choosing a university was likened to a gamble; good grades

were not enough, one needed luck to enter the university of his choice.

Cheng Zheng was indubitably a lucky chap. He topped the city in Physics and was second overall in the school's Science cohort. In addition, his university of choice was his father's alma mater thus his getting into Q University, the country's top civil engineering university, came as no surprise to anyone. But even as he was surrounded by the hearty congratulations of his peers and tutors, he felt an emptiness inside.

He had learnt from Old Sun that although Su Yun Jin's university application results had not emerged, with her poor performance, she could only make it to a second rate university. Moreover, her choices were varied and were literally scattered across the country with the only common factor being that all were far from Beijing.

Cheng Zheng knew what this implied. It didn't matter which university accepted her; in the subsequent four years, they would be thousands of miles apart. He had already made clear to her where he intended to go... that and his feelings for her.

The night of their second kiss, he had been jubilant because he assumed his feelings were finally being reciprocated. Now he could see how laughably wrong he was.

He wanted to contact her so he asked everyone but no one knew her household number or address. Even the address listed for the receipt of the university application results was the school and not her home.

The entire summer, Cheng Zheng's home had no lack of well-wishers or opportunists who seized this opportunity to fawn over him. This included his relatives and father's colleagues, subordinates and clients. Everyone was proud of this good-looking boy's achievements but only he was privy to how he truly felt in the dead of the night when sleep eluded him and he could only stare at the ceiling.

Before university commenced, there were two frequent visitors to the Cheng household – Zhou Zi Yi and Meng Xue. Since they were acquainted early on in life, Cheng Zheng didn't dislike Meng Xue. On the contrary, he found her one of the easiest girls to get along with. Moreover, their two families were close so he

was considerably polite to her whenever she visited.

Meng Xue had been accepted into a third rate Beijing university. With her grades, she could have easily qualified for a better university so Cheng Zheng was baffled that she was delighted with this arrangement. Meng Xue had explained that this way, she could be his companion in the subsequent four years. Cheng Zheng found it absurd; he wasn't a kid or handicapped, why would he require a companion?

Whenever Meng Xue visited, she always brought news of Su Yun Jin although it was not known if it was intentional or otherwise. Yun Jin had been accepted into a second-rate university in G-city. She had returned home after the university entrance examinations and didn't even attend the teacher appreciation ceremony that their senior high school hosted.

There was an instance when Meng Xue magically produced the Su household number. To her surprise, not only did Cheng Zheng refuse the sheet of paper, his temper flared and he showed Meng Xue the door while demanding to know why she wanted to give him that country bumpkin's number.

Meng Xue was vexed. Although she didn't take offense at his behaviour, she visited less often though she still called every other day.

When Cheng Zheng finally calmed down and reflected on his actions, he knew he had over-reacted. Ever since he received his university application result, he had been feeling down. He apologised to Meng Xue but subsequently refused all her other calls by getting his parents to inform her that he was out. However, soon even the housekeeper felt it was too awkward to repeat the blatant lie so Cheng Zheng said irritably "Tell her I'm dead and to stop bothering me." His mother who had been listening in on the side was horrified and she chided him on his ill choice of words.

Cheng Zheng's parents were busy people. One made his designing firm his second home while the other was always hurrying to different locations to settle business. Despite their schedule, as parents, they were still able to detect their son's moodiness. One day when the three of them gathered for dinner, his mother Mdm Zhang Jin Yan probed "Did you and Meng Xue fight?"

Cheng Zheng replied huffily "Why do you keep linking us together?"

His father, Cheng Yan Sheng, spoke in his typical stern fashion “I suggest you busy yourself with affairs of the heart only after you’ve completed your studies. At this age, you should put all your focus on your studies. When I was your age, I was never like your generation dating for the sake of it.” He paused before ending off with “But then again, only Meng Xue can tolerate your hot temper.”

“I’ve already said it has nothing to do with her!” Cheng Zheng’s temper boiled as he slammed his bowl and chopsticks on the table. “If you were really so focused on your studies back then, who was it who duped a younger version of mommy to his side?”

Seeing that the head of the family was starting to get angry, Zhang Jin Yan quickly stepped in to moderate the conversation “Let’s talk it over nicely shall we? If it isn’t Meng Xue then who is the source of your vexation? Your dad and I are only being concerned. My precious boy has been outstanding since kindergarten; only girls chase after him and never the other way round...”

“Just stop probing. I’m fine. Stop hovering over me like I’m a nut job.” Cheng Zheng was an only child who was doted on and spoilt so unsurprisingly he had the air of a tyrant and often spoke his mind freely.

Zhang Jin Yan covered her mouth as she laughed “Is this about the girl you cut out from your graduation photo? Since you cut out her face, I can’t tell... Is she prettier than Meng Xue?”

Cheng Zheng’s face burned as he sputtered “Wha ... Why did you touch my stuff? That’s an invasion of my privacy!”

“Is that considered invading your privacy? You didn’t even hide it but merely stuff it under your pillow case. A few days ago, the housekeeper’s back hurt so I changed your bedsheets in her place instead. At first I wondered about the identity of the two persons you bore a huge grudge against that you would go to the extent of cutting out their heads from the graduation photo. But on closer inspection, I realised one of the headless persons was my beloved son! Judging from the attire, the other was a girl. From the attached name list, she was a certain Su something Jin...”

Cheng Zheng’s face was like a traffic light as he changed from red to white in seconds. He couldn’t even speak as his words were stuck in his throat.

Zhang Jin Yan continued teasing “If you hate that person, why did you also cut your own head out? That’s kind of twisted my son... Hey you’ve not finished your dinner, don’t leave yet!”

Cheng Zheng’s door slammed shut. He unlocked his drawer and pulled out a small card – Su Yun Jin’s and his face were stuck on millimetres apart. His mother was right, even he felt a little weird for making it but he did not have any picture with her... Even in the graduation picture, her lips were firmly pressed together.

In all his eighteen years of existence, he had never experienced such loneliness as he did when he looked at the card in his hand. More than that, he felt as if there was a hole in his heart. He finally understood that there were some things in life you couldn’t keep by your side no matter how much you desired to grab onto it. It had all been his wishful thinking. Even that kiss that gave him so much joy was only her form of piteous goodbye.

That day she had said “This I return you”. Cheng Zheng buried his head in his pillow. *Su Yun Jin, how will you ever repay me?*

Meanwhile, Su Yun Jin was in a different circumstance altogether. After Cheng Zheng had already received his university admission results for half-a-month, she finally headed back to school to get her own result slip.

She had performed average. With her grades, she was lucky to have made it to a respectable second-rate university that majored in public relations. People were all surprised to discover that this timid girl had applied for such a degree. Truth be told, she was merely pushing her boundaries. She wanted a new beginning and hoped to emerge from it a different Su Yun Jin.

Raising the funds for her university fees did not go smoothly. After her father’s illness and death, the mother-daughter pair had already borrowed all they could from their relatives. Although the school’s donations had helped tide them through a period, no one was willing to loan them more money, what with her uncertain future and dim prospects. Fortunately, her senior high school contacted her university which then reviewed her family’s difficulties and allowed her to pay her school fees at a later date till after the school financial board had approved of her bursary application.

During the summer before university, Su Yun Jin worked hard at a textile

factory threading pearls and managed to earn some income. Adding that to her mother's savings, she was finally just able to enter university.

The night she departed, the mother-daughter pair hugged and teared. Her mother felt regretful that Yun Jin had to start off life with a huge debt while Yun Jin comforted her saying it was better to owe the bank interest than to owe people a debt of gratitude. She was only upset that living in a different city meant her mother would be all alone at home. But there was a thought that Yun Jin never voiced – daddy was no longer around but mommy was still relatively young. She shouldn't have to spend the rest of her life alone. Yun Jin's leaving was her only way of allowing her mother a chance to pursue her happiness.

In that moment, Yun Jin thought of Cheng Zheng, that privileged boy. In his perfect world, losing out on a girl he had feelings for could very well be the only setback he would ever face in life.

A bug born in summer was never supposed to experience the chill of winter. Similarly, he could never be a part of her world.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 11

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 11

[July 10, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [18 Comments](#)



We're at the quarter way mark and a competitor for Yun Jin's affections finally makes an appearance. But what kind of lopsided competition is this that Yun Jin actually has feelings for him?

Chapter 11

Anyone would feel alienated in a new environment and Yun Jin was no exception. This big Southern city of China had a distinctive atmosphere which Yun Jin was completely unfamiliar with. But she quickly adapted to the city, or more accurately, the city accepted her magnanimously. She slowly grew to love this city located near the equator where it often rained; this city with its buildings of olden charm; this city bustling with prosperity...

The tan, lithe locals were straightforward and intelligent. People from other parts of the country would adopt the local accent to converse fluently. No one

cared about where you came from – if you were local or otherwise.

Her university was the result of a recent union of several schools. Although it wasn't a top institution, at least it was relatively famous in this city. As the school had a significant slant towards the Humanities, the females outnumbered the males. Moreover, it had a reputation of being populated with beauties so the boys in the neighbouring university would always look over with interest.

Yun Jin was a minority in her degree who had studied the Sciences in senior high. The moment she entered her first undergraduate year, she knew that even as others took it easy and enjoyed their university years, she had to work doubly hard to catch up to their humanities basics.

Fortunately, after school had commenced for a first months, the school finally approved of her bursary application. Her form tutor even recommended her a part-time errand job in the departmental office. Although it didn't actually pay well, in fact it was barely enough to purchase a pretty outfit, Yun Jin was content.

There weren't many modules in Year One as compared to Senior Year Three where she only had half a day off weekly. Spare time was aplenty. After she ascertained that she could juggle the rigours of her studies and the demands of part-time job satisfactorily, in the fourth month of university, Yun Jin found herself a tutoring position. Her student was a primary three girl. The pay 15 yuan an hour. The original tutor, who was a foreign language major in the same university, had found the pay too meagre and had advertised the position on the school bulletin. Yun Jin paid a middleman fee of 35 yuan and finally settled into a new routine.

Tutoring was a choice part-time job that most working undergraduates preferred. Yun Jin's first tutoring experience was easier than she had expected. The student was the only child of a simple, honest family. Although the girl was a little spoilt, she was on the whole obedient. She was easily distracted and had to be supervised as she tackled her assignments. However, her parents were white-collared workers who simply had no time to monitor their child and thus had decided to get a tutor from the nearby university.

Yun Jin was quiet and meticulous and extremely patient. Sometimes the girl

would throw tantrums such that even her parents were frustrated but Yun Jin would merely smile. Her tolerant nature earned their favour and appreciation. Thankfully, the parents were reasonable people with decorum so Yun Jin experienced none of the abuse or frustrations trumpeted in headlines that other home tutors suffered. She was able to continue happily with her tutoring, and combining her pay with that of her part-time job at the university, she scrimped just enough living expenses to get by.

Yun Jin's first undergraduate year passed like this without incident. She was basically only present in class for lessons and was hardly in her hostel too. The clubs and societies that her batch mates took part in actively was something she had no time for.

Her results were average, not outstanding that the professor would take note, but not terrible that she required remediation. She didn't have close friends in class or in the hostel but maintained good relations with most. She didn't think she was very much different from the quiet girl back in senior high but now, she was at least happy. All the low self-esteem and dark days of senior high school had ended with the goodbye that fateful night. She hadn't realised that with her self-doubt gone, she no longer cast her eyes groundwards and this version of Yun Jin shone.

She had a fair complexion with exquisite features, a high forehead and long lashes. While she dressed plainly, she had an enviable figure and was a collected person. Even amongst the many beauties in school, she was not without her admirers. There is a saying that the girl who's not aware of her own beauty is the most alluring and this was the category that Yun Jin belonged to. When she visited Mo Yu Hua's campus once, the latter's classmates tried to dig out more details about her. But seeing that the person in demand had no inkling of her beauty, Mo Yu Hua didn't bring it to her attention either.

At this juncture, it would be completely remiss not to mention Mo Yu Hua. It was quite odd really. After they received their university admission results, both of them realised they were studying in the same city once again. The only difference was that Yu Hua's diligence had paid off and was in the city's top university. Yu Hua had even been accepted into the exclusive medical course and was a source of pride back in senior high as well.

In that graduating batch, Yun Jin's tablemate Song Ming was the overall top scholar but because he didn't fill in his university choices wisely, he eventually enrolled into Harbin Institute of Technology. Meng Xue didn't perform well either but had her wish and was studying in Beijing. Although it was only a third-rate university, at least she was with *him* in the same city. As for Zhou Zi Yi, he enlisted into a Shanghai university. Regarding this person, Yu Hua never brought up his name again and Yun Jin was determined not to either.

Yun Jin and Yu Hua. Although they had been senior high classmates for two years, they were not particularly chummy. Strangely, it was only upon graduating from senior high school that their relationship became closer. Perhaps the events in the final few months of senior high bonded them. People are often like that, only by sharing their pain and secrets could a deeper bond be forged.

At a quick glance, both were the introverted sort, but in reality their personalities could not have been more different. Yun Jin may be quiet but was sensitive and stubborn. In comparison, Mo Yu Hua was more giving and was more sensible.

Yun Jin regarded Mo Yu Hua as her only friend. Although one shuttled between part-time job and classes while the other spent long hours in the laboratory leaving them little time to meet-up, whenever one needed to unload her worries, she would immediately think of contacting the other.

When the summer vacation began, Yun Jin was on the train on her way back to her hometown when she spoke of Shen Ju An for the first time to Mo Yu Hua.

Shen Ju An was Yun Jin's faculty senior in his third year. Before she knew him personally, she had already heard of his name during the many gossiping sessions back in the hostel.

She first met him in the departmental office where she ran her errands. Yun Jin would spend all her spare time there tidying up documents, typing and running office errands. On the other hand, Shen Ju An was student body President and was well-liked by the teaching staff and thus appeared there often. Because of their constant meetings, they eventually became friends.

In the beginning, Yun Jin didn't think much of Shen Ju An. However, after

becoming friends, she started to realise that a person couldn't be this popular without reason. She had never seen a person, who had long bid his adolescence goodbye, with such clear eyes. Yes, if she had to describe him in a single word, it would be pristine.

According to hearsay, his family background was not too well-off and just like Yun Jin, he came from a small county. However, this had no impact on how people regarded him highly. As for his good academic performance, Yun Jin didn't care for his many medals and trophies. After all, she had seen her fair share of well-rounded individuals. What impressed her was that when he looked at someone, he would give them a warm smile and his undivided attention. Of course, it couldn't be denied that he was also good looking but this charm was unlike Cheng Zheng's confidence or Zhou Zi Yi's boyishness. Shen Ju An was a gentleman and had the ability of making the people around him feel at ease.

Yun Jin did not know when she started taking special notice of him. Perhaps it was that one summer afternoon when she lifted her head from the messy pile of documents she was in and saw his peaceful side profile. She couldn't help but think to herself: today's great and life's good. Then, he must have sensed her gaze as he turned and smiled at her. Yun Jin blushed.

In this manner, the two of them became closer but Yun Jin found that the more she knew of him, the more she did not understand. He was amicable to everyone but there was an invisible barrier between people and him. However, he treated Yun Jin particularly well and occasionally the two of them talked and joked. Whenever Yun Jin was busy with her tutoring and unable to run her office errands, he would voluntarily complete them.

"So, can I take it that you like him?" Mo Yu Hua had asked.

Yun Jin pondered this for a long while before saying "I'm not sure myself. I only know it's comfortable being around him and that I can envision us growing old together."

"Growing old together? Then what about Cheng Zheng? What's it like when you're with him?" Mo Yu Hua teased.

Yun Jin was taken aback before replying "It's hell."

The moment the words were uttered, both girls burst into laughter.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 12

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 12

[July 11, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [11 Comments](#)



Time for a class reunion! They finally meet for the first time since *the kiss*. What will happen?

Can we also take a moment to appreciate the picture à la Peanuts? It's so fitting I can't even.

Chapter 12

During the summer vacation, Form 3(3) organised a class gathering. Somehow a resourceful person managed to contact Yun Jin and insisted that she attend. Yun Jin had no intention of going but then thought "What am I afraid of? If I really want to break out of my shell, I have to start somewhere."

So on the day of the gathering, she left home early to take a train to the city. The get-together was held at a barbeque pit in a park. By the time Yun Jin arrived, there were already quite a few people milling about. It appeared that attending university was a form of renewal; the senior high kids who were previously constantly stressed out by the university entrance exams were in high

spirits. When they saw Yun Jin, a group of boys teased excitedly: The terrible university years have tortured the dinosaurs into pretty girls.

Yun Jin smiled and didn't think much of it. Mo Yu Hua was not attending so she made small talk with other classmates.

Cheng Zheng was here though. She had spotted him immediately when she arrived but he did not see her.

Out of courtesy, Su Yun Jin had fully intended to greet him. After all, she couldn't have attained her highest ever Mathematic score in the national examinations without his help. When their eyes met, Su Yun Jin smiled and nodded at him but he looked away. They didn't look in each other's direction again.

His hair was shorter now which made his features more striking. His lips were pursed at the corners and he had more fine lines than before. *Even at his university where the cream of the crop gathered, this boy must surely still be the centre of attention*, Yun Jin thought to herself. But maybe all he really needed was the undivided attention of one individual – Meng Xue was seated close to him and was barbequing food for him continuously. They looked really close. But this was to be expected, the two of them were childhood sweethearts and now were studying in the same city; one was handsome, the other was pretty, them being a couple was expected.

Yun Jin prepared to barbeque some food for herself when a flawless pair of hands offered up a plate piled high with meat. She looked up to see Zhou Zi Yi grinning widely. While she didn't feel any sense of goodwill towards him, she uttered her thanks.

"I love serving pretty girls." He said candidly as he sat beside her.

Yun Jin chuckled. "Mister Zhou, you're too direct. This 'little miss' can't handle your compliment."

Zhou Zi Yi laughed with her and didn't take her words to heart. "That's the spirit! So you can joke as well. Funny, I never noticed your beautiful eyes before."

Yun Jin half teased and was half serious as she said "It's not the only time

you've missed the beautiful things around you.”

“Is that so?” Zhou Zi Yi arched his eyebrows slightly before teasing “Well, why don't you give me a chance then?”

Yun Jin was just about to respond when she heard a stiff chortle coming from nearby. She looked over and saw Cheng Zheng staring at Zhou Zi Yi “Such *chances* will only land you in trouble with Jie Jie.”

Zhou Zi Yi scrunched up his nose in annoyance “Now that we're here having fun, can we not mention that fierce woman?”

So he had a girlfriend. Yun Jin thought of Yu Hua and felt bitter. For the past year, Yu Hua may have appeared to have put him behind her but she knew that first loves would invariably leave a scar.

Following that, Zhou Zi Yi cracked a few jokes but on seeing that Yun Jin was not in the mood, he left. Cheng Zheng on the other hand, was in surprisingly high spirits and was joking openly with Meng Xue. Even till the moment Yun Jin took an early leave, he never looked at her again.

All through summer vacation up till the commencement of her sophomore year, Yun Jin struggled over the dilemma of informing Yu Hua. Finally, one night in the dormitory, she dialled the familiar number. After mentioning a few casual events, she blurted out “I hear he's with someone.” There was no proper opening to what she said, neither did she furnish other details but the person on the other end had no need for clarification. Yu Hua was silent before saying calmly “That's perfectly normal. I have the right to like someone, so does he.”

“But why must the person you like be him?” That boy with a frivolous attitude, how could he have attracted someone as innocent as Yu Hua?

Yu Hua said: “Sometimes rationale tells us what the right thing is but the heart remains resolute on its course.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 13

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 13

[July 11, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [11 Comments](#)



We sneak a peek into Yun Jin's budding romance with Ju An. If anyone cares to know, I quite like the fellow myself.

Chapter 13

The sophomore year ran a tighter schedule than year one. Yun Jin shuttled tirelessly between classes, tutoring lessons and the department office. This Qing Ming, she didn't return home to sweep her father's grave; her mother had phoned up and told her she would see to it herself.

Mother no longer choked up when mentioning Yun Jin's father. Indeed time was a great healer. Mother also added that due to someone's connections, she was able to find work in the largest textile factory in the county. While it was tiring, the pay was adequate and she hoped Yun Jin wouldn't push herself so much.

"It's alright. I'm used to it." Yun Jin replied. As compared to the prospect of not having to work so hard, she was happier over the fact that her mother had overcome the worst grieving stage.

Another matter weighed heavily on Yun Jin's mind – now that Shen Ju An was in Year Four, he would graduate in a couple of months. By this time, most of the graduating class had already signed on with companies. For a period, there was a rumour that the Professor had wanted Ju An to join the academic staff but their negotiations fell through ultimately. Yun Jin wanted to know where he was headed and so on a day when both were free, she asked to meet him at the library.

It was already past three in the afternoon by the time she reached the library. Thus, there were few students present and the long benches in the reading lounge were only occupied by a few people. She identified Shen Ju An's back from afar. She walked over quietly and found that he was actually bent over the table, asleep with a book half-covering his face.

Yun Jin found this hilarious. It was the first time she saw how he looked while sleeping. The April breeze blew past them. When it swept past a person, it created a sort of dreamy ambience. It was indeed a suitable time for a nap.

Yun Jin gingerly lifted the book off his face. His clean features was mesmerizing. The wind lightly tousled his hair and Yun Jin slowly but purposefully swept apart the hair covering his forehead. The moment she touched his face, his hand that was originally resting on the desk flew up and grabbed her fingers. Then he opened his eyes and smiled at her.

Yun Jin froze. Seeing that he had no intention of loosening his grip, she was also in no hurry to withdraw her hand. She smiled back and they gazed at each other quietly as their fingers intertwined. Finally, a person passing by coughed lightly and it was only then that Shen Ju An slowly released her hand.

Yun Jin placed her hand beneath the table and asked after a moment's beat "I heard that they wanted you to sign on here. How come they've approached someone else now?"

Shen Ju An touched his jaw and said dispassionately "I rejected their offer. I have no intention of remaining here."

"Then ..." Yun Jin prodded carefully.

"I've signed on with Yong Kai." He replied blandly.

Yong Kai? The name was familiar to everyone. Even in this city flooded with enterprises and national companies, Yong Kai's name was common knowledge. It was even rumoured that it was highly selective of its candidates yet Ju An had managed to sign on with little fanfare.

"I had always thought teaching was more suitable for me." Yun Jin commented with a tinge of regret.

"Trust me. I know what I'm best suited for..." It wasn't clear if it was because he had just woken up from a good dream but Shen Ju An had on a lazy smile, one that Yun Jin was unaccustomed to.

"... Whether it's work or people." He looked directly at her and added on the last statement quickly.

"Yu Hua, tell me I'm not dreaming." Yun Jin had recounted the day's events to her with a pounding heart.

Yu Hua's voice was full of mirth "I can only say ... congratulations!"

"But it doesn't feel in the least bit real."

"What does it matter how it feels? As long as you feel blissful, that's all that matters."

"Blissful?" Yun Jin savoured this description. Was she really? Who would say otherwise?

She had just hung up Yu Hua's call and was lying on the bed when the dormitory phone rang once more. After a dormitory mate picked up, there was a yell "Yun Jin, it's for you again!"

Yun Jin sat up quickly and received the call with an energetic hello. However, she was greeted with silence on the other end. She assumed the connection was poor so she checked the cord twice and even repeated her hello but the other party still remained quiet. She was about to hang up when a thought emerged. She unconsciously gripped the phone tighter.

"... Is it you?" She asked uncertainly.

There was no response.

Yun Jin was also silent. After a long while, she could just discern a faint sigh

before the line cut off abruptly.

The phone did not have caller-identification so Yun Jin queried the hostel mate who had answered the call.

“It was a boy. His voice was really nice too.” Her hostel friend replied.

Yun Jin couldn't understand why she thought of him. Furthermore what was the likelihood that it really was him? This was especially since his expression the other day was so cold.

Could it really be him? Surely it cannot be ...

That night, Yun Jin's mind was a whirlpool of thoughts. When she finally entered dreamland, she didn't realise but one of her fingers was slightly caressing her lips.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 14

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 14

[July 12, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [20 Comments](#)



This is one of the best chapters yet as all three characters, and by that I mean Yun Jin, Cheng Zheng and Shen Ju An, finally gather in the same place at the same time. Let's jump right in!

Chapter 14

After that day in the library, there was an unspoken understanding between Yun Jin and Shen Ju An. Although neither had confessed their feelings, both were aware of how the other felt. They spent more time together and sometimes when they walked along the school's forested pathways, Shen Ju An would smile and take her hand in his. Feeling his warm, dry palms, Yun Jin knew that her heart had found its harbour.

Although they did not display their affections publicly, their relationship was soon found out. Being such a compatible couple, the majority were envious

but wished them well. Yun Jin's hostel mates even teased her for having the good fortune to date such a perfect graduating senior.

When one is basking in happiness, time always speeds by. In the blink of an eye, the semester was coming to an end. Initially, Yun Jin had planned to give her tutee thorough lessons but the latter's parents had informed her that they intended to go on a long vacation and thus tutoring was put on hold. This arrangement was also fine with Yun Jin; she was grateful for the sudden weeklong break. Besides, Shen Ju An had already graduated, now was an excellent opportunity for the two to spend quality time together.

Yun Jin and Shen Ju An made plans to visit the Temple of the Six Banyan Trees on Labour Day, which was also a National holiday. Yun Jin rose bright and early. She had just washed up and was eating takeaway breakfast when a hostel mate told her "Yun Jin, your boyfriend is waiting on the ground floor". Yun Jin turned bright beetroot. She wasn't yet accustomed to people referring to Shen Ju An in that manner.

Didn't we agree on nine-thirty? Yun Jin looked at the time. It wasn't even nine yet. He was rarely so enthusiastic. Yun Jin suppressed a grin as made her way down hurriedly. She failed to notice the quizzical expression on her hostel-mate's face.

At the ground floor, Yun Jin looked everywhere but didn't spot Shen Ju An. Just as she was feeling confused, her line of vision fell on the walkway opposite the hostel. She stared shocked and shook her head in disbelief. If she wasn't dreaming then .., was he really standing there right now? She had poor sleep the night before, was it causing her to hallucinate? The "hallucination" before her was taller than she remembered.

This guy should be in Beijing or by his parents' side or ... basically anywhere but here. But if it wasn't him, who else could it be? He was wearing a casual t-shirt paired with jeans and a duffel bag was slung across his back. His eyes were trained on her and casting aside the fatigued expression, he was exactly as she remembered him.

Seeing Yun Jin rooted to the spot, Cheng Zheng was in no hurry to go up to her. Thus, both looked at each other in this manner for a few seconds before

Yun Jin broke out of her reverie and walked over.

“Um ... How ... Why are you here?” Yun Jin stood before him and forced out an opening.

Cheng Zheng raised his chin slightly “What, I’m not welcome?”

Yun Jin shook her head furiously “I didn’t mean that. I ... It’s just that my friend told me my boyfriend was waiting.”

“Yeah I told her to pass on that message.” Cheng Zheng’s lips curled up. “So what? You don’t know how many people I had to stop to determine which block was yours. And why do the girls here react as though they’ve never seen a man before?”

“It’s not like that. Don’t utter nonsense.” Yun Jin lowered her gaze unconsciously.

Cheng Zheng folded his arms across his chest and said “Su Yun Jin. Have you noticed that you always wear this look of guilt when you see me? ...”

His words pricked Yun Jin’s conscience. She was also confused, why was it that whenever she saw him, all the cowardliness, confusion, low self-esteem would come surging back? And why should she feel guilt when she didn’t owe him anything?

“Could it be that deep down, you know you owe me.” He seemed to have read her thoughts as he leaned forward such that his face was mere inches away from hers.

Yun Jin was struck with a sliver of annoyance and shoved him away but this only produced a devious chuckle. She was about to speak when she noticed that Cheng Zheng was looking at something else. She followed his gaze and discovered Shen Ju An standing not too far off.

Yun Jin deftly took a few steps away from Cheng Zheng and tried to suppress her wildly beating heart.

“You’re here.”

Shen Ju An’s smile was as warm as usual and his eyes didn’t betray any shock. “I thought you would be early so I decided to be early too. You have a

visitor?”

Cheng Zheng slowly straightened his back. His eyes expressed guardedness as he faced this man who was well-matched in looks and confidence.

“Yun Jin, you should introduce us.” He said coldly.

“Oh.” Yun Jin came to her senses and hurried to introduce the both of them. “This is Shen Ju An ... Ju An, this is my high school classmate Cheng Zheng. He is currently studying in Beijing.”

She addressed him so affectionately and was quick to deny any connection to him; it was the first time that her joy inspired such fear in him.

“He’s your boyfriend?” He hoped against hope that she would reply in the negative. *Tell me it isn’t so, please, it isn’t so!*

She didn’t reply but her staring at Shen Ju An red-faced was all the confirmation that Cheng Zheng needed.

Cheng Zheng always scoffed whenever people said a heart could literally shatter in sorrow. But now that his heart was being cruelly shredded piece by piece, he would very much rather it shattered. Then maybe he would not ache anymore.

He had wrestled with himself for such a long while and finally decided to give in to his heart’s desire and travelled halfway across the country to meet the woman he couldn’t stop thinking of yet now ... now she belonged to someone else!

By right, he should take his leave immediately and forget this ridiculous trip and this hateful person. But his innate pride and stubbornness meant that he didn’t budge one bit. When Shen Ju An smiled politely at him, he even managed to force out a smile in return.

“Here for a vacation?” Shen Ju An asked.

“Something like that. I have relatives in this part of town. I thought I might as well visit an old classmate. I’m not disturbing you am I?” Cheng Zheng may have said so but nothing in his expression hinted of apology.

Yun Jin stared at him in surprise. She thought self-mockingly, perhaps she

had regarded herself too highly. She had thought he came here expressly to see her.

“It’s no big deal. We were just about to visit the Temple of The Six Banyan Trees. Do you want to come along?”

“Of course.” Cheng Zheng agreed readily and caused Yun Jin much pause instead. Anyone could have discerned that her offer was made out of politeness and was not sincere so she couldn’t believe that he would take her up on her offer.

This trip was an odd experience for Yun Jin. She was accompanied by two good-looking men but throughout, she felt uneasy as if seated on a pincushion. She couldn’t understand what was in Cheng Zheng’s head.

Thankfully, Shen Ju An was flexible. The entire trip, he was friendly and accommodating, not neglecting to introduce the sight and scenes to Cheng Zheng. Cheng Zheng played the role of an attentive audience to the hilt and it almost appeared as if he was very interested in whatever Shen Ju An had to say.

The Temple of The Six Banyan Trees was situated on Six Banyan Tree lane. Although it was a public holiday, the incense was not appreciably dense. After entering the temple, the on-site majestic artefacts had a soothing effect on the heart.

The trio admired the view as they walked. The incense was densest in front of the Guan Yin statue. No matter the times, human’s unfulfilled desires were always so great in number; being a helpless human, they could only seek help from the deities.

Shen Ju An bought incense and offered some to Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng. Cheng Zheng made no move to accept it. He shook his head and said “I don’t believe in this.”

Shen Ju An smiled “Everyone has unfulfilled desires. If believing can make you happier, why not? Since you’re here, you might as well light an incense. They say the Guan Yin deity is efficacious here, perhaps you can really attain your dreams.”

Cheng Zheng paused and did not refuse anymore. He received the incense and followed their lead in respectfully kowtowing before the statue. He then jotted his name and request in the Book of Deeds before burning a stack of hell notes. Yun Jin noted that he didn't even flinch when he took out a hundred dollar bill. She advised him "You only need to feel sincere." Cheng Zheng smiled and replied "My sincerity far exceeds this."

After they had offered up incense, Shen Ju An noticed that the heat from the furnace had precipitated a thin veil of perspiration on Yun Jin's forehead and offered to get water from the temple entrance. Suddenly, only Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin were left. Yun Jin couldn't help but feel awkward so she suggested that they look around on their own accord.

Yun Jin walked up to the Six Patriarchs and observed that they appeared extremely lifelike and wise. She then recalled their backstory and was lost in thought when she heard footsteps that stopped behind her. She didn't need to turn around because she could sense who it was.

"What are you doing?" He asked.

"I'm just looking at the statues of the Six Patriarchs. Perhaps because they possessed such wisdom, they have such carefree demeanours.

"But not just anyone can be like the Six Patriarchs." Cheng Zheng walked up to her slowly.

Yun Jin felt a surge of helplessness. "Cheng Zheng, you should go."

"Why should I leave? I still haven't figured it out. At first I thought you just didn't know how to love a person, but now I see that you just didn't know how to love me. You were so disappointed on knowing that Zi Yi has a girlfriend but yet you found a new beau on campus so quickly. Why can't you give me a proper explanation?" His face was against the light so his expression could not be seen.

"What explanation do you want?" Yun Jin turned around abruptly and collided into his chest. She could feel his body warmth through his T-shirt. This felt strangely like back in old days – all she needed to do was turn around and there he would be.

Cheng Zheng hugged her and said “It’s fine that you don’t like me. But abandoning me after kissing me, what am I supposed to make of that?”

“Let go, Buddha is watching.” Yun Jin slapped his hands away.

“But Buddha hasn’t even noticed my unhappiness.” Cheng Zheng dropped his hands by his side “Yun Jin, I came specially for you so you should at least tell me why I’m not good enough.”

This was the first time Yun Jin saw the typically arrogant and stubborn Cheng Zheng appear so vulnerable. She said with an air of defeat “It’s not that you’re not good enough. In fact, the converse is true. You’re too good for me, we’re just incompatible.”

“I don’t know what silly logic this is. Then is Shen Ju An compatible with you?” He said with displeasure.

“That doesn’t concern you.”

Cheng Zheng was pricked by her words and his tone became hard. “I don’t care. You just can’t treat me like this. That night you said something about ‘This I return you’. Let me tell you, what you owe me you can never repay!”

Yun Jin stared at him silently. This was the Cheng Zheng she knew, the horrid repressive aura, the unreasonableness, not one bit had changed.

She walked past him and left the Six Patriarch hall without a word. Coincidentally, Shen Ju An was just returning with bottles of mineral water. Seeing his warm smile, Yun Jin’s unsettled heart finally calmed down.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 15

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 15

[July 13, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [19 Comments](#)



As unwilling as he may be, Cheng Zheng has to return to Beijing. Would he depart without a fight?

Chapter 15

In the subsequent days, Cheng Zheng always insisted that Yun Jin be his tour guide on account of their old ties. Yun Jin could not turn him down but after the temple episode, refrained from spending time alone with him. Each time they went touring, she would drag Shen Ju An along. She was polite towards Cheng Zheng. Even when his words held a deeper meaning, she would remain poker faced.

Shen Ju An appeared not to notice the strange atmosphere between the two; everytime Yun Jin invited him along, he would agree readily. Thanks to his wisdom and good upbringing, their outings as a trio were never awkward.

In those few days, Cheng Zheng felt increasingly hopeless; his heart was slowly crumbling into dust. On the fifth day, he finally announced he was returning to Beijing the following day. Yun Jin breathed a sigh of relief inwardly but out of courtesy, decided to cohost a farewell dinner with Shen Ju An.

Cheng Zheng was unusually withdrawn the entire night. Even downing beer dully with Shen Ju An failed to erase the pallor in his face. Seeing him in this state, Yun Jin felt a tad unbearable but she was in no position to comment so she only wished him bon voyage. Not giving him any hope was best for him. She believed that after some time, he would gain clarity and would look back on this as a huge joke.

The meal was eaten in silence. On seeing that it was nearing an end, Cheng Zheng offered a toast in an unusually courteous tone “Thank you for your company these few days. If I have caused you any inconvenience, I’d like to repay you with this toast. Let’s cast aside all else and I hope you guys will drink this with me.”

Shen Ju An raised his glass “You’re too polite. You’re Yun Jin’s old classmate, of course we should play host.” He looked over at Yun Jin who wore an uneasy expression as she looked at her glass.

“I don’t have good alcohol tolerance; can I be spared from drinking?” Yun Jin raised her glass awkwardly.

Cheng Zheng stared at her unwaveringly “This is my first toast to you. Will you refuse this too?”

The moment he said this, Yun Jin was caught between a rock and a hard place; she couldn’t drink yet she couldn’t not drink.

By this time, Shen Ju An had finished his mug of beer. He took Yun Jin’s glass from her grasp and said calmly “If you don’t mind, I’ll finish this on Yun Jin’s behalf.”

Cheng Zheng smirked as he said coldly “I’m afraid some things you can never execute on her behalf.”

The friendly albeit superficial atmosphere instantly collapsed under the weight of Cheng Zheng’s words. Yun Jin grabbed her cup back wordlessly and downed it

in one continuous gulp. She never touched alcohol ordinarily and so unsurprisingly, she started feeling extremely nauseous by the halfway mark. Even Shen Ju An felt uneasy for her but she drank on stoically. She choked on the final mouthful and coughed uncontrollably, causing her face to turn a dark red and tears to well up in her eyes. Shen Ju An rushed to hand her some napkins as she slammed the emptied mug on the table and eked out “Are you satisfied now?”

Cheng Zheng stared coldly at the scene unfolding before him. When she finally regained her composure, he acted as if nothing had happened and smiled at Shen Ju An “She’s always been this stubborn and can’t withstand a little provocation.”

Shen Ju An clapped Yun Jin’s back. When she finally recovered, he replied with composure “I actually like this personality of hers.”

Cheng Zheng replied “But this attitude of hers is certainly hateful.”

“Not really. Yun Jin appears meek on the exterior but she’s tough on the inside. If one treats her with enough respect, actually she’s very easy to hang out with.”

Yun Jin saw them so immersed in rebutting each other that they had forgotten her presence and felt very uncomfortable but she could not find it in herself to interrupt them.

“You’ve not known her for long right? Yet you seem to know her very well.”

“Sometimes, time is not the only factor when it comes to understanding a person.”

Cheng Zheng laughed again “Since you know her so well, could you answer something on her behalf? This query has troubled me for a long time.”

Hearing this, Yun Jin had a rough idea what he was about to launch into but Cheng Zheng ignored her warning gaze and continued “I could never fathom why she would kiss me on the streets in front of so many onlookers, then abandon me on the spot.”

“Cheng Zheng, you ...” Yun Jin sputtered in rage before coughing violently again.

Shen Ju An stared at Cheng Zheng in silence and neither reacted nor sought

clarification. He grabbed Yun Jin's hand that was on the table and said "If Yun Jin doesn't want to answer this question, I think it must be because you're mistaken about the whole incident. There may be many reasons behind a kiss. Even when she kisses me, I've never had to ask why."

Cheng Zheng's smile froze. On this warm, humid night in May, he felt a sudden chill. He thought to himself, perhaps he had really lost; even if he didn't want to admit it, on hearing this, he was simply no match for his opponent.

Perhaps, the one who cared the most would always become the loser.

After a period, he finally spoke again, the rasp in his voice was even foreign to his own ears "Su Yun Jin, you may be stupid but you definitely have good taste when it comes to choosing a boyfriend."

Su Yun Jin looked at him wordlessly and blushed, not because she was embarrassed or annoyed but because that single cup of alcohol had caused her surroundings to become hazy.

Cheng Zheng drummed his fingers on the table lightly as though he didn't take the matter to heart. "Your boyfriend is so outstanding that it's no wonder he was readily hired by Yong Kai."

"Yong Kai? How did you know?" Yun Jin shook her head. Even though her senses were blurred, she knew that she had never once mentioned this to Cheng Zheng.

"It's actually quite a coincidence. Didn't I tell you at the start I came here to visit relatives? I wasn't lying. Zhang Ying Kai is my maternal grandfather and Yong Kai Enterprise was named after him. When he passed away, he left everything to his son and daughter. The current CEO of Yong Kai is Zhang Jin Meng and his only sister Zhang Jin Yin is my mother. Because of my dad, my mom lives outside this city and I was born there too and that's how our paths crossed Su Yun Jin. Oh right. Shen Ju An, don't you want to know who mentioned you?"

His hands kept at the rhythmic drumming and the steady beat troubled Yun Jin. She couldn't seem to grasp what Cheng Zheng was saying and her vision was fuzzy. She only knew that the hand in hers suddenly tightened its grip. In her clouded consciousness, she felt a bad premonition; was something going to

happen in the near future?

Cheng Zheng saw the shock flash across Shen Ju An's eyes and knew his words had affected him. Although he wasn't able to derive pleasure from this, but this was his final comeback. He knew even if he could undermine his enemy, his fate was unchangeable. He didn't need Yun Jin to despise him because even he felt disgusted at his underhanded tactics. But he couldn't care too much because rationality didn't make him happier; he couldn't stand seeing them so close and he being abandoned by the wayside tending to his own wounds.

Shen Ju An recovered quickly and rested the sleepy Yun Jin on his shoulder before saying "I see. You're undeniably blood relatives. Once again, you've shown me the confidence of the Zhang family. I'm very sorry but your words can't change anything. The only way I would give up on Yun Jin would be for her to choose so. Please excuse us. Yun Jin is drunk and I should send her back to her dormitory."

Cheng Zheng stared at the peaceful girl slumped on Shen Ju An's body and knew her choice would never be him. Just as Shen Ju An had said, that night's kiss was all a terrible misunderstanding on his part. He watched dejectedly as Shen Ju An called for the bill before supporting Yun Jin and taking their leave.

When Yun Jin was supported to her feet, her balance shifted in Shen Ju An's embrace and she subconsciously muttered two words.

Her voice was not loud but it was enough to make the two men freeze.

"Cheng Zheng ..."

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 16

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 16

[July 14, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [16 Comments](#)



Even though we all know he's a hot-blooded teenager, Cheng Zheng really um exceeds expectations in this chapter. Well, he never claimed to be a white knight did he?

Chapter 16

The next morning, Yun Jin rose with a pounding head. She ached all over so she sat on the edge of her bed to gather her senses. Yesterday's memories slowly trickled in. She had overindulged in alcohol and it appeared that Ju An had sent her home.

She headed towards the ladies while massaging her temples. A hostel mate, Xiao Wen, smiled slyly "Yun Jin, how much did you actually drink? You were dead drunk."

"One glass of beer."

"What?! That was the result of only one measly cup?" Xiao Wen rolled her

eyes. “But then again, if such a handsome guy were to send me home, I would also be drunk; drunk with flattery!”

Yun Jin smiled and washed up. However, Xiao Wen was so excited that she walked up to Yun Jin and nudged her “Oh do tell how you met that handsome guy!”

Yun Jin froze. Shen Ju An was someone every student recognized.

“The person who sent me home yesterday ... ?”

“Oh quit acting.” Xiao Wen chided her. “That hottie isn’t from our school right? I just know our school won’t produce men with such an aura.”

“What aura?” Yun Jin put down the towel in her hand.

“It’s hard to describe; his build is flawless and he seemed so cool that I ... Aye, it’s the same guy that Xiao Lu said was your boyfriend. The one waiting at the foot of our block. Wait, so who’s the real ...”

Yun Jin couldn’t care less about what Xiao Wen was saying as she changed hurriedly before making her way to Shen Ju An’s hostel. Her confusion was increasing by the minute. She could have sworn her last memory was that of her leaning on Shen Ju An’s shoulder. What reason could there be for Cheng Zheng to have sent her back? Could something have happened that she wasn’t aware of?

When she reached Shen Ju An’s hall, his hostel-mates informed her that he had already left. Without hesitation, Yun Jin dashed towards the library. She had never wanted to see Shen Ju An more desperately. She needed to know exactly what had happened the night before.

As expected, she found him in the usual spot. When she approached him, he was buried in a book. When he finally noted her presence, he didn’t appear surprised but smiled as he usually did “You’re here. How do you feel? Are you uncomfortable anywhere?”

Yun Jin sat beside him and asked directly “How is it that he sent me home instead of you?”

Shen Ju An looked in her eyes “Is there anything wrong with that?”

“What do you mean?” Yun Jin’s eyes widened.

Shen Ju An didn’t reply. He thought for a while before slowly moving closer to her. Before she could react, he kissed her lightly on the lips before leaning back again. “Yun Jin I realise all this time we’ve been together, I have never once kissed you.”

Yun Jin finally made sense of it “So you’re bothered by his words. It’s not like that. Back then ...”

“You don’t have to explain.” Shen Ju An gently cut her off. “I’ve previously mentioned that I won’t give you up because of other people’s interference, much less because of what happened in the past.

“Then why? I don’t believe it’s because he’s Zhang Jin Meng’s nephew.”

Shen Ju An smiled and avoided the question “Yun Jin, I know you very well. You may be able to kid Cheng Zheng and even yourself but you can’t hide it from me. I’ve not broken your cover because I thought you were able to let the past go. But I see now that it’s not an easy thing to do.”

“If I wanted to be with him, I wouldn’t have waited till now.” Yun Jin hated that she was the sort who couldn’t express herself easily.

“Do you not want to be with him? Or do you not dare?” Shen Ju An was unusually cutting with his words.

“I don’t love him.” Yun Jin persisted.

Shen Ju An shook his head. “Then do you love me? Do you love the ideal me, or the real me?”

“I don’t understand what you’re saying.” Yun Jin mumbled as tears pooled in her eyes.

“You do understand Yun Jin. I know we have a wonderful time together because I feel the same. But that’s only because we’re similar in many ways. This is not love. I have my pride.”

Yun Jin bit on her lip to control herself and the tears that were threatening to spill. She said stubbornly “What on earth did he say to you? Tell me.”

Shen Ju An kept his silence.

“Fine. If you won’t tell me, I’ll ask him.”

Yun Jin left the library and headed straight for the school gates. Even when she crossed paths with her fellow peers, she didn’t even bother acknowledging them.

At this moment, Cheng Zheng was still in the city at a relative’s place in an upmarket district. As he had invited Yun Jin and Shen Ju An to his place only two days previously, Yun Jin could roughly remember the way.

When she reached the apartment, Yun Jin pounded on the door with all her might. The door swung open almost immediately and Cheng Zheng stared at her with a delighted expression. But before he had a chance to say anything, Yun Jin delivered a resounding slap.

Cheng Zheng touched his cheek and shouted “Are you crazy?”

Strangely, the tears that Yun Jin had been trying so hard to keep in finally burst its banks. It seemed as though she paid no heed to Cheng Zheng’s wrath. She herself was also different from her usual peaceful manner as she grabbed his clothes and delivered punches and kicks. She cried out “Cheng Zheng you jerk! What did you tell him?”

Cheng Zheng was trying to shield his face as he slowly backed into the house.

“That’s enough. My patience has its limits. Urgh ...” Yun Jin’s nails had dugged into his chin drawing blood. He was in pain and immediately grabbed both her hands to stop her.

“What’s so great about being rich?” Seeing that she could not withdraw her hands, Yun Jin was even more infuriated and she kneed him.

Cheng Zheng yelled in pain and used his strength to push her onto the nearby sofa. He then used his weight to pin down her arms and legs before yelling “You’re too much. Are you trying to end my family line?”

Yun Jin could not move. She wanted to curse at him but she couldn’t find the right vocabulary to do so. She cried out “What must I do so that you will leave me alone? How long will you continue to bully me?” Yun Jin cried and cried, as though releasing all her pent-up anguish at having lost Shen Ju An as well as all her frustration at the never-ending struggle with Cheng Zheng.

Cheng Zheng stared at her, helpless. But out of the corner of his eyes, he spied a neighbour who was drawn by all the commotion peeping in. He imagined what the noseyarker must be thinking on spying them in such a compromising position and he smiled bitterly.

After much time had passed, Cheng Zheng could feel his shirt soaked through with her tears. Yun Jin was spent after all that crying and had stopped struggling.

She couldn't accept that the flourishing romance she had with Shen Ju An was over when it had barely started.

After she calmed down, both of them kept quiet for the longest time and only their laboured breathing could be heard. It was only then that she realised how inappropriately tangled up they were.

"Move to a side." Yun Jin said huffily and embarrassedly.

"You still have the cheek to ask me to move? You cried so loudly just now, it was so embarrassing!"

"What are you talking about?" Yun Jin attempted another kick.

Cheng Zheng deftly moved his crucial bits out of range and angrily said: "How dare you still try and kick me! I always knew you girls always act demurely in public but are such shrews in real life."

His teeth were clenched as he touched the deep scratch on his chin "Since young, my parents have never once laid a finger on me. Yet you dare to do so even without clarifying anything. You'll be the death of me. If it were not for the fact that it's you, I would have ..."

"And what would you do about it?" Yun Jin laughed coldly. She recalled the encounter with Shen Ju An in the morning and felt an ache in her heart. "What are you not capable of? You're such a lowlife Cheng Zheng. What have you done this time?"

"I may be a lowlife, but your Shen Ju An is no saint either."

"What do you mean?" Yun Jin demanded to know.

"You want to know what I told him? I merely told him the truth, in fact right in your presence. I don't believe in keeping people in the dark." He inhaled deeply

before continuing “Besides, whatever I had to say, if he were a real man, he would have accepted my open challenge for your affections and not have given you up so readily.”

This was exactly what Yun Jin wanted to avoid hearing. She closed her eyes “Whichever way you try to deny it, it’s still all your fault. Why must you disrupt my life? If you had not appeared, my life would be great.”

“Is that so?” Cheng Zheng arched his brow before leaning in close to her ear “Are you really living well? Then why did you call my name in your drunken stupor?”

Yun Jin opened her eyes in shock. “Don’t be ridiculous! How can that be?”

“I’m being ridiculous? Why don’t you ask Shen Ju An then? He’s the perfect witness.” he said smugly.

Yun Jin went through her version of events but still had no clue what Cheng Zheng was referring to. However, he didn’t seem like he was lying.

Did I really call for him when I was drunk? What could have possessed me, she thought to herself. She retorted “Back then, I wasn’t in the right frame of mind. How can you take my words so seriously? Besides, I called your name because I hate you.”

Cheng Zheng leaned in close once again with a sly grin “You hate me? That’s just great because I hate you too. In fact, I’ve hated you for the longest time.”

She could feel his hot breath on her face. She flushed a bright red and her heart beat furiously. “I told you to get up. Did you not hear me you punk?”

“You call this being a punk? You ain’t seen nothing yet.” Cheng Zheng’s eyes reflected a wildness she had never seen before. He pulled her hands and placed them over his chest while caressing her face with his other hand. Then he moved in for the kill. Unlike the previous two instances which were chaste, this was much wilder. She tried to say something but he seized the opportunity to move his tongue in.

Yun Jin was paralyzed in shock and felt that she could not even breathe. She pushed him on his chest but it wasn’t enough to get him to stop.

Only when she sensed that his wandering hand had slipped under her top did she finally muster the strength to grab hold of said hand and said: “Stop!”

Cheng Zheng’s handsome features were possessed by overzealous passion. He couldn’t be bothered by her weak resistance and mumbled in reply “No way.” His criminal hand struggled out of her stronghold and slipped under her undergarment.

Yun Jin was so anxious that she fought her way up. However, in doing so, she felt something hard against her thigh. Having bumped into it, Cheng Zheng exhaled sharply in pain as his hands moved with greater vigour.

Yun Jin felt vulnerable in this foreign situation. All the sex-education classes she attended told her that this was wrong but she was unable to stop him. Feeling anxious and cornered, Yun Jin’s tears started to fall again.

Cheng Zheng’s suppressed desires had all bubbled to the top and he wanted more. He suddenly felt a wetness on his cheek. Only then did he realise she was crying.

He reigned in his actions with an air of defeat. He buried his face into the curve of her neck and muttered dully “Not again. Sooner or later, you’ll drive me insane.”

Yun Jin struggled to get up but he pushed her back down with one hand while the other one no longer restrained her. Following that, she could faintly make out the sound of a zip being pulled.

“What are you doing now.” She asked tentatively.

“Oh keep quiet. You still dare ask when it’s all your fault?.” Cheng Zheng’s voice sounded strange.

At a ripe age of twenty, if Yun Jin was completely oblivious to what was happening, then she really was an idiot. She understood in an instant and felt hot all over. She squeezed her eyes tight and kept very still. However, as their bodies were in close proximity, she could make out his every action. He jerked suddenly and moaned before collapsing on top of her. After a few minutes, he finally got up lazily and tidied himself.

Yun Jin had wanted to wait till he was done before opening her eyes. However,

he dabbed at her legs unexpectedly and exclaimed “Oh no!”

Yun Jin sat up instinctively and unfortunately faced him in his state of undress. When he saw her sit up suddenly, Cheng Zheng had felt a little embarrassed and was about to twist around. However, she was faster than him and she shrieked loudly as she grabbed a cushion to cover-up his anatomy before shutting her eyes tight again.

Cheng Zheng was stunned by her actions. He growled “You have a problem you know that?”

She retorted “You’re the crazy one you flasher. Why did you exclaim just now?”

Cheng Zheng tossed the cushion aside and said coldly “Take a look at your pants.”

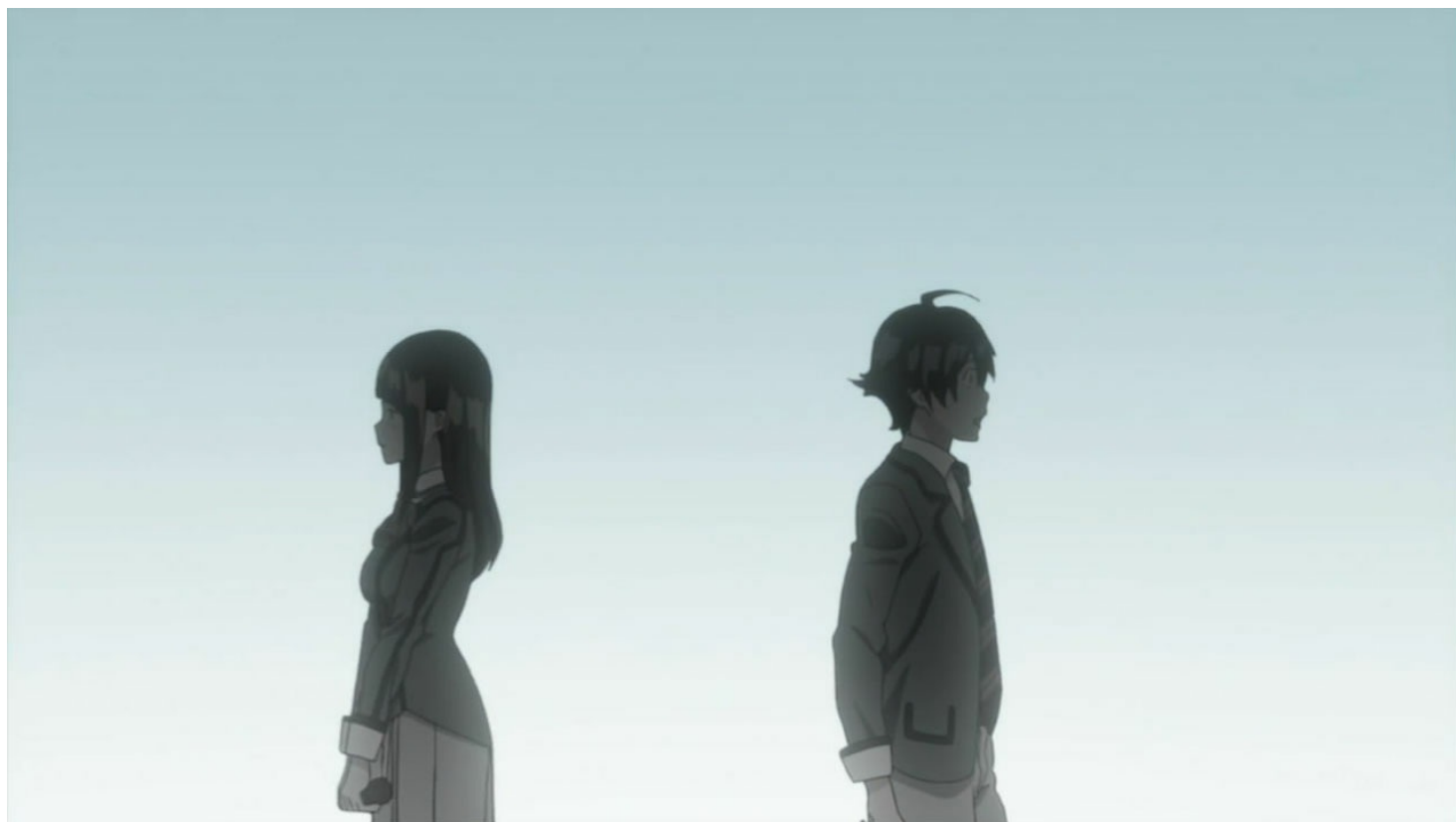
Su Jin lowered her gaze and gasped to see a large, sticky patch on her trousers.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 17

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 17

[July 15, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [20 Comments](#)



Admittedly yesterday's chapter came as a shock even to me when I first read it but colour me equal parts horrified and intrigued to find out what happens next. While I cannot condone what Cheng Zheng did, I'm too invested in this story to turn away. For those who've stuck around despite the hero being *gasp* an imperfect human, I hope just as much that Cheng Zheng will redeem himself. He's lucky he's fictional.

Chapter 17

After Cheng Zheng had washed up in the toilet, he walked out to find Yun Jin dabbing hard at her trouser stain with a troubled expression on her face.

"Stop rubbing it. You've been at it for over ten minutes. Any more and your pants will tear." He came to sit beside her.

Yun Jin ignored him and turned her back on him as she continued to dab

relentlessly. The thought of it was so vile that she started to despise herself for getting into such a situation.

“I didn’t do it on purpose.” He felt a little embarrassed. “You hit me really hard by the way.”

“I wish I could beat you to death.” Yun Jin spoke through gritted teeth.

“Don’t you feel a teensy sorry for hurting me?” Cheng Zheng grabbed Yun Jin’s hand and placed it on his cheek “Feel it. It’s really swollen right!”

Yun Jin’s expression remained frosty; she refused to joke around anymore.

Cheng Zheng was nervous on seeing her reaction. He was almost afraid that the hand he was grasping would slap him across his face once again. When this woman put her mind to it, there was nothing she was incapable of. He certainly didn’t want to be on the receiving end again.

Seeing that she steadfastly ignored him, he continued “Aye, so are you and Shen Ju An truly done? I knew it right from the start. Hey have you lost your tongue? I hate it when you remain quiet.”

Yun Jin tossed the tissue in her hand and stood up abruptly. “I don’t want your affections.”

“Then whose do you want? Shen Ju An? I’m afraid he’s not as devoted as you think him to be.” Cheng Zheng followed her in standing up.

Yun Jin laughed coldly “Even if he’s not in the picture, I would still not consider you.”

Cheng Zheng was provoked “I just don’t get it! How am I not good enough for you?”

“With your temper, there is no ...” Yun Jin stopped herself mid-sentence. “Forget it. You don’t have to change because you’re you and I’m me. There’s no need to change for the other.” She headed for the door.

“What’s wrong with my temper? At least I’m not like you who don’t mean what you say.” Cheng Zheng stood his ground and retorted.

Yun Jin sighed “You should return where you came from.” Without waiting for his response, she left.

“Yeah leave!” His voice trailed behind her.

Cheng Zheng flew off that night but Yun Jin did not send him off.

When the hostel lights had long gone out, Yun Jin received a call from Cheng Zheng. Set in a noisy background, his voice was faint. “... If I said I would change, would you admit that you have some feelings for me? Would you?”

Yun Jin clutched the receiver in the dark and ignored his relentless questioning.

“Would you? Would you? ...”

The speed at which Yun Jin’s and Shen Ju An’s romance had blossomed and subsequently fizzled out was a shock to everyone. But it was hard for a graduating student to maintain a relationship anyway, they weren’t the only couple to have such an outcome. Since both of them kept their silence on the issue, no one gave it further thought.

Yun Jin’s heart was empty although she couldn’t quite put her finger on it. She was not exactly heartbroken. When she had first seen him after their break-up, she felt more awkward than sad. On the other hand, Shen Ju An had greeted her cheerily “Yun Jin, it’s been a while since we’ve met. How are you?”

Yun Jin had lowered her gaze and mumbled an excuse to take her leave.

“I thought we could still be friends.” He smiled as he looked at her.

On seeing his sincere and warm smile, Yun Jin had chided herself for being so petty and immediately smiled in return.

Yun Jin’s sophomore year in university ended with the graduation of Shen Ju An. During the vacation, she had initially planned to follow Mo Yu Hua’s lead in staying on campus and taking on more odd jobs. However, her mother called and summoned her home. She had wanted to find out more over the phone but her mother avoided her questions and said they would talk more when they met.

So Yun Jin took an almost twenty-hours long train ride back home. She was worried that something bad had happened. The moment she set her luggage down at home, she started to interrogate her mother. But her mother was unusually evasive and an unexpected blush coloured her cheeks.

Yun Jin knew instinctively. When her mother approached the clothing factory

to find a job, the boss had interviewed her and discovered her background as an accountant so he sent her to the finance arm of the company. As the days passed, she and the boss fell for each other. The boss of the clothing factory was a year younger than her mother and was a divorcee with a daughter. He had recently broached the topic of marriage and this was the sole reason her mother had called her back urgently.

Seeing her mother's expectant and anxious face, Yun Jin knew she had no right to stand in the way of her mother's happiness. Her mother was already over forty, such chances would be hard to come by again. She hugged her nervous mother and said "I know daddy would want you to be happy, as do I."

Her mother's eyes glistened but this time it was due to joy.

That night, Yun Jin lay in bed alone. A sorrowful feeling of loneliness was gnawing at her. Her mother finding her second happiness meant that she belonged to another family now and Yun Jin would be all alone. She had hoped of building a future with Shen Ju An but unfortunately, she simply did not have the fortune of spending the rest of her life with such an outstanding man.

At her mother's arrangement, Yun Jin met the guy a few times. He was on the opposite spectrum as her father. Her father looked frail but refined whereas he looked honest but ordinary. In fact, he appeared older than his age. He didn't seem to have had much of an education but she could tell he was very considerate towards her mother and that was all Yun Jin asked for. Yun Jin went along with her mother's wishes and greeted him as uncle. He had rubbed his hands and was so happy that his smile reached from ear to ear.

Now that Yun Jin had given her blessings, there was nothing else in the way of the couple and so the matrimonial preparations went underway. Originally, her mother intended to make it a simple affair with a straightforward solemnization at the city hall but he had insisted on giving her a ceremony however simple it may be. Regarding this point, Yun Jin was of one mind with him. Thus, she assisted her mother in the busy preparations.

Two days before the wedding, Yun Jin and her mother were returning home with bags and bags of stuff when their neighbour called out with a huge smile on her face "Yun Jin! Look who's here."

Just as she was wrapping her head around the fact that someone had come to see her, a familiar figure walked out of her neighbour's place.

Yun Jin sighed "What are you doing here?"

"To see you of course." He smiled and replied matter-of-factly.

"Oh Yun Jin, that's not the way to treat your boyfriend! You should have been home to receive him; he's been waiting for you the entire morning."

"That's a small matter aunty. It's only right that I should wait for her. Besides, if it weren't for her coming back late, how would I have the opportunity to drink such fine tea at your place?"

Her neighbor was pleased at the compliment and smiled widely.

Yun Jin observed this ridiculous scene in silence. This fellow was getting out of hand! How did he manage to get the sternest neighbor in the entire block eating out of the palm of his hand? Her neighbor even called him an endearing "Ah Zheng" which sent shivers down her spine.

"Yun Jin, this is ...?" Her mother hesitated as she studied Cheng Zheng carefully.

"Hello aunty! I'm Yun Jin's ... senior high classmate!" Cheng Zheng was quick to introduce himself. Although this was the truth, the sly hesitation in his words made it seem like he was hinting at something more between them.

Her neighbour laughed with mirth. "My, he's shy isn't he? I say, Mdm Su, your Yun Jin has really landed herself a good catch. Casting Ah Zheng's good looks and temper aside, he's also a brilliant student!"

Her mother's eyes brightened at the mention. Cheng Zheng's handsome features and good manners had already given her a wonderful first impression. With the welcoming news that he was also very smart, she would be a fool to reject such an ideal son-in-law.

If looks could kill, Cheng Zheng would have long been vaporized by Yun Jin's glare. He smiled smugly back at her, all *try causing a scene if you dare*.

"Let's talk at home." Seeing the look on her mother's face, she knew that the unspoken exchange between Cheng Zheng and her was misinterpreted as

affectionate.

After Cheng Zheng had cheerily bid her neighbour goodbye, she trudged home with him close behind.

Back home, just as she was pouring him some tea, her mother quickly maneuvered her into the kitchen. “Yun Jin, why haven’t you mention your boyfriend before?” her mother asked in a low voice.

Yun Jin rolled her eyes, “He’s already said he’s my senior high classmate.”

“Don’t you lie to me! Since when has a classmate ever travelled all this way to visit?” While her mother’s tone was harsh, it belied the satisfied smile on her face. “But this is also for the best. I always felt that I’ve let you down and was worried you’ll feel alone. Now that someone’s looking out for you, I can relax a little.” She continued.

Yun Jin remained silent. She initially wanted to deny and air her grievances with that awful fellow but after her mom’s heartfelt speech, she no longer had the heart to do so.

Walking back to the living room, she spied Cheng Zheng looking intently around him. Yun Jin set a cup of tea in front of him huffily and said “You’re so used to living in luxury; I bet you’ve never seen such a bare place.”

Cheng Zheng took a sip of tea and replied “I don’t find it bare. I’ve lived in a flat before you know, back when I was younger. Your house is really neat and tidy. I can tell aunty puts in a lot of effort.”

“Oh it’s nothing much.” Yun Jin’s mother was both happy and bashful. “You two sit here and chat, I’ll go make dinner.”

Once her mother disappeared into the kitchen, Yun Jin said firmly in a low voice “Okay, you’ve acted all you want. Will you please leave now?”

Cheng Zheng replied “Why ... is your house plastered with those matrimonial decorations? Could it be that aunty knew I was coming and wants us to quickly consummate our marriage?”

If not for fear of attracting her mother’s attention, Yun Jin would have flung the hot tea at Cheng Zheng’s annoying face. Her jaw clenched “It’s for my mom.

She's getting married again."

Although she had prepared herself for Cheng Zheng's teasing, none came at all much to her surprise.

Her mother served dinner in no time and it was a more thoughtful fare than usual. She was even attentive to Cheng Zheng and continuously placed more food in his dish.

Yun Jin had no appetite. After a few mouthfuls she said to Cheng Zheng "You better hurry and eat. There's only one bus back to the city; you'll miss it if you take any longer."

On hearing this, Cheng Zheng placed his chopsticks down and turned to aunty sincerely "Aunty, since I happen to be here, I was wondering if I could attend your wedding?" He quickly tucked his foot under his chair to avoid any indignant kicking.

Yun Jin's mother blushed furiously and replied "You're more than welcome to! We don't have many relatives anyway so it would be nice to have you as a guest. I wouldn't mind you staying here till the big day either except that our house is very plain. I'm afraid you won't be used to it."

"Of course not aunty! I like your house!" Cheng Zheng got what he asked for and was grinning like a Cheshire cat. When her mother was not paying attention, he stuck out his tongue at Yun Jin in triumph.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 18

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 18

[July 16, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [10 Comments](#)



Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng finally have a heartfelt conversation. (She even says so herself!) But what would that lead to?

Chapter 18

What does it feel like attending your own mother's wedding? Naturally, many people wouldn't know the answer to that.

The eve of the wedding, Yun Jin's mother promptly fell asleep after a busy day of handling all the last minute tasks. But listening to her mother's even breathing made Yun Jin more awake than ever.

As her room was loaned to Cheng Zheng, she had been bunking in with her mother the past two nights. Yun Jin dared not toss and turn for fear that she would awake her mother who was smiling even in her sleep.

After an agonizing period where she tried to will herself to sleep, she finally tiptoed out of bed and headed to the living room for water. It was only after the heat of the warm water diffused through the cup and warmed her palm that she felt she had a grip on something real in her life – a life that was about to change forever.

In a small neighbourhood like hers, even the street lights go to sleep at night and not a sound could be heard in the stillness of the night. In the dark, Yun Jin sat down lightly on her worn-out sofa. The darkness helped her imagine her father's presence. Previously, the relationship that her mother and late father had was what she aspired towards in life but even that had changed. Could anything last in this world?

The door to Yun Jin's room opened softly with a creak. Apparently, he couldn't sleep as well. When Yun Jin's eyes finally adjusted to the darkness, she saw Cheng Zheng beckoning her towards him. She mulled it over before placing her cup down and following him onto the small balcony.

Yun Jin studied his side profile quietly as she waited for him to speak first.

"You can't sleep too?" he asked.

"What do you mean by 'too'?" her only relative was marrying into a new family the next day and it didn't involve Cheng Zheng so why should he have insomnia too?

He bowed his head and laughed before saying gently "Yun Jin I was turning in your bed while trying to fall asleep when I saw several strands of your hair. I thought to myself, yes this is indeed where you've slept previously. Even if you weren't physically there, at least there's traces of you left behind. I was actually quite happy."

Su Yun Jin mumbled under her breath "It's late. Did you seek me out to tell me such nonsense?"

Cheng Zheng leaned on the railings "When I was very young, my mother teased me 'Ah Zheng, when you grow up, mommy will give you everything she owns'. I replied 'But if you give me everything, what would happen to you?' Mother continued with 'By the time you've grown up, daddy and mommy would be very old. At that age, we have no need for anything.' I persisted, 'What's the big deal

about growing old?' Mother said 'We will die.' At that instant, I had cried and begged. I said I wouldn't grow up so they needn't grow old or leave me behind. Mother was very helpless as she said 'Regardless of your wishes, everyone will have to part one day.' When I finally grew up, I realise my mother was right. The only person who would accompany you till the end of time would only be yourself but the scars of those you've met will forever be imprinted on your heart."

"Can I take it that you're comforting me?"

Cheng Zheng smiled at her innocent return, "I just can't bear seeing you look like an abandoned puppy."

"You don't understand how I feel." After her father had departed the world, her mother was her only kin. While she knew that her mother's remarriage didn't alter their blood ties, she would also not belong solely to her anymore or be associated with the family established by her dad.

"Su Yun Jin. Don't be so dismissive. You're not me so how would you know if I understand or not? You're always going on about our differences and how we're incompatible but no matter a person's background, rich or modest, we're all the same when it comes to wanting to be loved. Be fair to me."

This was the first time in Yun Jin's memory that she was able to have a calm heartfelt talk with him. Maybe she was weary, all the thoughts she had been suppressing bubbled to the top.

"What is fair Cheng Zheng? Why is it that because you like me I have to return your affections? I can neglect to mention whatever that happened in the past but why do you keep appearing? In school, at home? Why do you repeatedly disrupt my life! You've never once asked me if I wanted any of it. All you do is force your feelings on me. Is this what you call fair?"

No one had ever talked to Cheng Zheng in that manner. Since young, he was used to being the object of envy – a respectable family, good looks, excellent grades. There were only things he didn't want, never things he couldn't get. Thus, he had always thought it natural for him to get what he wanted.

"I thought you had at least a little love for me."

“I’m just an ordinary person. For a boy of your calibre to like me, I may one day look back on this and feel very privileged. But it’s so hard for me right now. What I want is to be in love with an equal but you don’t even respect me. Ju An was right, I don’t dare love you. That day you asked me if there was any possibility between us if you changed your temper. My reply is you don’t have to change for me. You’re wonderful in your own way; it’s just that you’re not my type. If you were to get together with someone compatible, someone like Meng Xue or anyone else really, you would definitely be happy.”

“What nonsense!” Cheng Zheng laughed bitterly although his face was stiff. “What do you mean you don’t *dare* to love me? You’re just afraid of giving yourself to this relationship so you don’t want to try. You’re so selfish!”

Yun Jin nodded “You’re right; I am a selfish person by nature so I won’t try. I’m glad you know this.”

The ceremony was a simple but joyous affair. Friends and family of both sides all made it a point to attend and the venue was filled with a joyous atmosphere. No one sensed a young boy and girl growing further apart.

In his role as Yun Jin’s boyfriend, Cheng Zheng naturally won the compliments of the guests. But no one was more enamoured with him than Yun Jin’s eighty-year-old maternal great-grandmother who held tightly onto his hand and refused to let go. Throughout the ceremony, Cheng Zheng refused to interact with Yun Jin but concentrated on lapping up the atmosphere and praises. Who knew that the old lady would send for Yun Jin? Clasp ing their hands respectively in hers, she told Yun Jin repeatedly, “Ah Jin, this guy is not bad.”

Yun Jin didn’t know if she should laugh at the absurdity of it all or cry in indignation. The old lady had cataracts for a few years now and was unable to see anyone’s features, how would she know he was any good? So she knelt next to her and asked “Granny, tell me exactly which aspect of him is good?”

The matriarch replied benevolently “Isn’t he Chen Zhen? [Chen Zhen](#) is a good man, he helped Huo Yuan Jia defeat the Japanese ...”

On hearing this, Yun Jin couldn’t help but burst into laughter. On the other hand, Cheng Zheng could only stare agape and was completely dumbfounded.

Laughter aside, granny solemnly brought their two hands together and said "I'm old now and I don't know how much longer I can live. If you two get married and I'm still around, you must personally come to inform me."

Cheng Zheng looked over at Yun Jin who said nothing. Then, Yun Jin used her free hand to pat the old lady reassuringly on her arm and promised good-naturedly "Don't worry granny, this I promise you." Seeing the old lady break out into a wide smile, Yun Jin apologized internally *I'm sorry granny. I'm afraid there'll never be this day.*

The day after the wedding, Cheng Zheng returned home. Not long after, Yun Jin returned to school as well. Her mother had naturally moved over to uncle's place and Yun Jin had stayed there a couple of days.

His residence was far better than their simple flat and he was very warm and considerate towards Yun Jin although there was a hint of carefulness in his every action. Yun Jin sensed she was being subconsciously treated as a guest. Since she was a guest, then she should not outstay her welcome.

When her third year commenced, her young tutee also entered high school and no longer sought tuition from her. Both uncle and her mother objected to her applying for a school bursary and had insisted on paying for her living expenses and school fees. Initially Yun Jin had rejected their goodwill but that only made her mother cry.

"Yun Jin, take it that you're easing my guilt."

Yun Jin was not inflexible; she knew accepting their offer would make everyone feel better so she relented.

Now that she did not have to worry about her finances, Yun Jin had a surplus of free time. Since helping out at the administrative department had become second nature to her, she decided to continue with it. However, she no longer saw the person and his familiar, reassuring smile. She heard that he had successfully settled into life at Yong Kai. The person she once thought she could spend eternity with, now no longer had anything to do with her.

As for Cheng Zheng, she never saw him again that year. The little she learnt about him came from Yu Hua and talk mostly revolved around him winning more competitions.

He had always been outstanding. After they kept their distance, he was still the capable Cheng Zheng. Perhaps, he would slowly forget about the girl he once loved who had let him down.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 19

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 19

[July 17, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [16 Comments](#)



I like that this chapter brings in actual world events that helps date the story and gives it a touch of reality. Also, Yun Jin the wallflower feels lost and lonely ...

Chapter 19

In the spring of Year Four, the country was swept up in the SARS epidemic. Several densely populated cities were hard-hit and Yun Jin's area was not spared. The number of infected people climbed steadily every day and the smell of death seemed to linger everywhere, causing everyone much fear and trepidation. Man was always so vulnerable when facing natural calamity and illnesses.

Yun Jin's campus was no safe haven; a year two female student who had returned from visiting her boyfriend in another city had developed a high fever that was later diagnosed to be SARS. The school descended into a state of flurry and panic. Following that fright, several other students also developed high fevers and were quarantined. Everyone was uneasy.

The school adopted all measures of emergency precaution. They documented the entry and exit of students meticulously and sent people to check on the

dormitories daily. The dorms were sprayed with disinfectant and temperatures were monitored closely. However, these measures failed to stem the rising paranoia.

Yun Jin's hostel mate Xiao Wen was quarantined because she had been in contact with the SARS-infected student. Thus, only five of the girls were left in the room. Other than Yun Jin, the other four girls would clutch their phones all day as it was their only means of communication with the outside world. All of them had their parents, relatives, lovers and friends asking after them.

It wasn't that Yun Jin wasn't worried. However she had few friends and was seldom in contact with her relatives. She was only concerned about her mom. Her mom should have phoned her up by now yet after many days had passed, she still had not received a call. She didn't have a handphone so she suspected that her mother's call couldn't successfully connect to the hostel line which was in hot demand. She kept a vigil near the phone and whenever she saw it wasn't in use, she would hurriedly dial her mother's new residence. However, no one ever picked up.

Yun Jin was beside herself with worry and longing for her mother. Her mother was now a homemaker, there was no plausible explanation for her constant absence. If something had happened, surely she would have been informed. She realized forlornly that she didn't even have her uncle's handphone number. Unsettled and despondent, Yun Jin rang up Yu Hua. However, Yu Hua's bunk mate informed Yun Jin that Yu Hua had come down with a cough and low-grade fever and had been sent to the hospital as a precaution.

Yun Jin had never felt this helpless before. At night, the hostel phone continued to ring endlessly. Whenever someone picked up the line, she would inadvertently hold her breath, hoping that she would be summoned to receive the call. Unfortunately, this was never the case. It bothered her; had her mother forgotten about her?

In her ordinary existence, she had never noticed the difference between other common folk and herself. But now in times of woe, she discovered how pitiful her life was. No one cared about her and she had no one to care for. She felt like the proverbial island that could only stare at the vast expanse of water surrounding her, where there was no other land for many miles.

Before Yun Jin fell asleep that night, she heard a girl whine to her lover over the phone that her parents were being too naggy and forcing her to drink bitter herbal concoctions. Her throat tightened and she was overcome with emotions.

After a period, the girl finally hung up the phone. By then Yun Jin had almost fallen asleep, she with her misty eyes and stuffed nose. The piercing ringing of the phone sounded again and was picked up by an annoyed girl on the lower bunk.

“Yun Jin it’s for you!”

Yun Jin practically flew down from her upper bunk. She was just about to yell “Mom!” when she heard an unexpected voice.

“What lousy phone does your hostel have? I’ve spent almost all my handphone battery just trying to dial in.” an impatient voice greeted her.

Yun Jin pressed the receiver tightly against her ear. She didn’t realise her eyes were already wet.

At her silence, he hesitated before continuing “I just wanted to know if you are well. I was ... worried about you. I don’t have any other intention ... Wait, Yun Jin are you crying? What’s the matter? Don’t cry, please say something ...” his voice took on an urgent tone.

Yun Jin didn’t care anymore as she sniffled noisily and allowed her tears to flow freely onto the receiver. She could only manage to choke out “Cheng Zheng ...” He was her floating plank, her only lifeline.

“Tell me what’s wrong! Hey hello hello ...” Yun Jin could only hear the static. She could faintly make out Cheng Zheng cursing at the phone before saying something but it was fuzzy and she could not make it out. She was just about to seek clarification when the line went dead. She hurriedly redialled and was astonished to find herself dialling his number with such ease even though she had never once called him.

The line went through and a robotic, crisp voice informed her with perfect enunciation “The number you’ve reached is temporarily unavailable. Please, try again later.”

The next morning, the first thing she did on waking was to redial his number.

She hadn't even given much thought to what she would say if she got through. All she knew was that she wanted to hear his voice.

This time however, his phone was switched off.

Yun Jin was fidgety in her two lectures. After ten, she had no more lessons scheduled for the rest of the day so she went to the administrative department to help the psychology professor key in tests scores on the computer.

After half-an-hour, the psychology lecturer couldn't hold it in any longer and tapped her to get her attention "Yun Jin, are you feeling unwell? This script earned 81 marks not 8100. That's off the chart!"

"Oh! I'm so sorry. I'll change it this instant."

More time passed and the professor returned to check on Yun Jin's progress. He remarked with an odd expression "You sure you don't want to head back and rest? You've changed his score to 18."

Yun Jin cheeks were awash in red and she immediately went to correct her mistake. At this moment, the faculty counsellor walked into the office and said casually "How come you're here Yun Jin? I thought someone at the school gate was asking for you."

Yun Jin froze "Looking for me?" Then she got up quickly and tossed out "Thanks sir!" and was out the door before anyone could reply. The two staff members looked at each other puzzled "What's with the child today? She's never been so frantic before."

The distance to the school gate was a long one. When she reached the firmly shut iron gates, she was so breathless that she was bent over and panting heavily. She placed one hand on her knee and the other on the iron gate as she searched all round. Indeed, there was a travel-weary Cheng Zheng on the other side.

He placed his hand on the metal contraption as well and frowned "Why were you crying last night?"

Yun Jin pat her chest to gain her breathing rhythm back and said with much difficulty "You're crazy."

Seeing the two kids speak across the gates, the security guard couldn't help but shake his head at their silliness. He avoided their hopeful gaze and held up his hands in mock surrender "Don't look at me; the school instructed that only people with a pass can enter or leave."

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 20

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 20

[July 18, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) 8 Comments



After Cheng Zheng's heroic reappearance, it's now time for Yun Jin to reciprocate the concern he had for her.

Chapter 20

During this period each faculty was given three special passes and all were kept by the respective faculty heads. Unless it was urgent, the heads would never loan the passes. Fortunately for Yun Jin, her persistence paid off and she managed to secure one of the coveted passes. Of course her helping out at the administrative department was a huge contributing factor.

The pass was only in effect from 0730 to 2200. That is, if she failed to return to school before then, she would be denied entry and be severely punished as a

result.

Yun Jin hurried out the school gates and went up to Cheng Zheng. Although they were now in touching distance, she did not know what to say and they looked at each other cautiously.

It was Yun Jin who said the opener “It seems you’re used to making an entrance without so much as a heads-up.”

Cheng Zheng rebutted her in a pained tone – he had clearly stated last night that he was on his way over.

Yun Jin thought back to the events of the night before and realized the poor connection must have been at fault for the message not being delivered.

“You were crying so fiercely you worried me.” Cheng Zheng continued “You haven’t told me why you were crying. Did someone bully you? Or maybe a quarrel ... with your boyfriend?”

Yun Jin picked up on his true motive in asking right away “Other than you, I don’t think anyone else would bully me.”

Seeing Cheng Zheng break into a grin she added “Besides, if I had really quarrelled with my boyfriend, how would your being here help in any way?”

Cheng Zheng had no comeback. After a period he said “Well whether you believe me or not, I came today with no other intention. I just needed to know you’re fine. Actually, back then, when I had returned home, I was so mad at you. What you said that night made me feel like everything I had ever done for you was foolish and unappreciated. I decided then never to bother with you again – you would have your freedom and I would learn from my stupidity. But as time passed, I actually found myself agreeing with your perspective. The moment I first laid eyes on you, I already decided that since I like you, you shouldn’t have any reason not to accept me. What you felt was unimportant as long as I could make you my girlfriend.”

Seeing Yun Jin smile, he continued “Perhaps I’m really not that bright when it comes to matters of the heart. After we lost contact, I finally realised why I was never happy. That’s because you were never happy. I cared too much about your every emotion. In the past two months, I’ve been following my architecture

cohort to various places: Jiang Zhe, Xiang Xi, Yun Gui. All the places were beautiful and had architecture that complimented the landscape. Many times, I would look at these magnificent structures and wondered how perfect it would be if you were by my side at that very moment. What I really need is not you trailing behind me but you standing next to me so we can enjoy our every moment together. It's a pity I realised this too late."

Yun Jin saw that he had finished speaking but maintained her silence as usual.

Cheng Zheng repositioned his duffel bag that was slung over his shoulder as he bowed his head and said "I had just arrived in Beijing from Yunnan yesterday when I had a sudden urge to hear your voice so I called you. Now that I see you're fine, I should make a move now."

Although Cheng Zheng said he would make a move, deep down he hoped that Yun Jin would ask him to stay. He was disappointed at her non-reaction and he turned around dully to make his way back. He dragged his feet for a few metres before hearing Yun Jin call out "The airport and train station are places with high human traffic. You shouldn't have come in such times. Since you're here, why are you so eager to again risk getting infected? If you're not in a rush to return to campus, why don't you stay until the danger period has passed?"

Cheng Zheng smiled so broadly that his pearly whites could be seen "I was beginning to think you were really going to let me go."

Seeing his lit up expression, Yun Jin said softly "Thank you Cheng Zheng; I'm very touched that you came all this way for me."

Once again, she was back in the apartment where Cheng Zheng stayed in his previous visit. He finally admitted that the apartment didn't belong to any relative but was really one of his family's property. Yun Jin entered and couldn't help recalling the incident on the couch which made her uncomfortable.

Cheng Zheng could see that she was consciously avoiding the couch and knew what was on her mind. The memory of their entanglement that day floated to the forefront of his thoughts and he felt a surge of warmth in his body. But, he didn't dare act so recklessly again. He switched on the television before entering the kitchen to boil drinking water.

The noise emanating from the telly dissolved the awkward tension. Yun Jin

surfing the channels but every one of them was reporting the SARS situation. As Yun Jin watched with gross disinterest, she suddenly sat up straight and stared hard at the details on the screen.

The rolling news at the bottom of the screen stated that a male passenger in the 16th carriage of yesterday's Kxx train from Yunnan, Kunming to Beijing had been rushed to the hospital after contracting a high fever. He was eventually diagnosed with SARS.

As the passenger had been in the enclosed carriage for over twenty hours, there was a high likelihood that he had infected fellow passengers. Thus, the health authorities were appealing to the relevant passengers to admit themselves to the nearest hospital for a checkup.

"Cheng Zheng!" Yun Jin shouted at the kitchen.

He stuck out his head in bewilderment "What is it?"

"You said you returned to Beijing from Yunnan yesterday. Did you take the plane?"

"No I didn't. My lecturer is so fearful of being in an aviation accident that he refuses to ride a plane. Besides, the school doesn't have the funds to subsidise plane tickets for all of us. I took the train back. It was almost forty hours. I nearly died of boredom."

"Was it a train from Kunming city? Numbered Kxx?"

"How did you know" Cheng Zheng smiled as he served her water.

A chill ran up her spine as her voice faltered "Which carriage were you in?"

Cheng Zheng racked his brains "Hmm I think it was carriage fourteen. Why do you ask?"

Yun Jin received the cup from him and her fingers brushed across his hand. She exclaimed "Why are your hands so warm!"

Cheng Zheng was thoroughly amused "I just held a warm cup of water, of course my hands would be warm."

She ignored his reasoning and reached over to feel his forehead. It was equally warm. Cheng Zheng reached up to her icy hands and said curiously "What are

you doing?”

Yun Jin shook his hand off and was so anxious that her voice was a pitch higher “Do you know that a passenger on the same train in carriage sixteen has been diagnosed with SARS?!”

“SARS?” Cheng Zheng stared dumbfounded before his face darkened “You’re worried I’ll infect you.”

“You ... I knew you were crazy!”

Yun Jin paced the living room anxiously “Is there a thermometer? Have you experienced any symptoms such as coughing, headache or general malaise?”

When he shook his head, she grabbed him by his clothes and headed for the door.

“Where are we going?”

“To the hospital.” Yun Jin didn’t want to discuss this any further and pressed her lips tightly as she dragged him to the door.

“I wasn’t even in the same carriage as the SARS guy. It’s not that easy to get infected.” he stated helplessly.

“Keep quiet.” Yun Jin flagged down a cab and they were off to the hospital.

Cheng Zheng was no match for her and had no choice but to undergo a medical examination obediently. Because the doctor noted that he indeed had a low-grade fever on top of the troubling news that he had been on the same train as a SARS patient, Cheng Zheng was to remain in hospital for observation.

When Cheng Zheng heard that it was to be for no less than seven days, he balked at the idea “That’s too much! Come on, seven days quarantine for a thirty-seven degree fever? That is madness!”

“Do you even realise the gravity of the matter? You can potentially die!” Yun Jin’s eyes glistened.

On the other hand, Cheng Zheng was smiling “Are you concerned about me?”

“You’re unbelievable.” She ignored him and focused on obtaining the necessary details to fill in the relevant forms for his warding. The doctor had also

taken her temperature which turned out normal. However, because she had been in close proximity with Cheng Zheng, she was advised to monitor her temperature religiously back in her hostel. Should she sense something amiss, she was to report to the hospital immediately.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 21

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 21

[July 20, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [13 Comments](#)



Yun Jin has always been insecure about her social standing. In this chapter, she gets to meet Cheng Zheng's family. Would that do her, or their new fragile relationship, any good?

Chapter 21

While Cheng Zheng was cooped up in the hospital for a week, Yun Jin's internal angel and demon clashed for 7 days. A small voice niggled at her *Yun Jin, why were you so worried about him after knowing he was on the same train as the SARS patient? That paralyzing fear, is it normal to feel that for someone you claim you don't love? When you dragged him to the hospital, why were your hands shaking? Compared with losing him, is the discrepancy in your social status so important?*

Another voice countered, Su Yun Jin you're just finding excuses. You knew matters were not that dire since he was never in direct contact with the SARS patient. In fact, you suspected that all he had was honestly just the common

cold. With his connections with the Zhang family, he would indubitably receive the best care so you needn't have interfered. If you continue to act like this, the last vestiges of your pride will disappear.

Both voices of reason had their points and their constant rebuttals made Yun Jin very weary.

Cheng Zheng called her from the hospital daily and would complain about the unfairness of his imprisonment and his boredom. Whenever he heard Yun Jin's mild replies, he would question what went wrong – when he was admitted, she had been so anxious over him. What had happened since then?

The second day of his admission, Yun Jin finally received a call from her mother. Apparently, uncle had been so afraid of contracting the SARS virus in the populated city that he moved the family of three to his old place in the countryside. Traffic there was sparse and people few; it was an excellent hide-out till the SARS epidemic had passed and this was the reason her mother hadn't been able to contact her.

"You won't blame mommy for not giving you a heads-up right?" mommy asked worriedly.

"It's alright mom. It's great to know you're okay. When I wasn't able to contact you, I was really worried."

"Of course not! You're my beloved mommy."

I'm just regretful that when I needed you most, you forgot about me.

The day Cheng Zheng was discharged, Yun Jin decided to go to the hospital after all. However, she didn't enter the wards but waited at the hospital foyer. Just as she had expected, she wasn't the only one there to see him; someone else had already attended to the administrative procedures for discharge.

There was an entourage that accompanied him as he entered the foyer. Amongst them was what looked like a thirty-odd stately lady who spoke in hushed tones with a middle-aged man beside her. Cheng Zheng walked in their midst with a beautiful young lady on his arm.

The chauffeur pulled into the porch but none of them was eager to leave. Neither had they noticed Yun Jin who was standing in a corner.

Yun Jin hesitated; she couldn't decide if she should approach them or take her leave. Just as she was wrecked with indecision, a person she scarcely expected to see emerged to join Cheng Zheng's entourage.

Ju An? It was hard to describe the shock Yun Jin was in seeing an unexpected person appearing in an unexpected venue.

In the past two years, Shen Ju An and Yun Jin still kept in contact but their conversation revolved around general wellbeing. Thus this was the first time Yun Jin had seen him in person post-graduation. He looked pretty much the same except that his work attire gave him an added aura of maturity. He was a shadow of the boy Yun Jin had met in the library, the boy who used to bend over his books in concentration.

Unexpectedly, Shen Ju An was the first to notice Yun Jin in her corner. If he was surprised, he didn't show it. He appeared to consider Yun Jin's appearance as within his expectations. He first sent her a smile before turning to speak to Cheng Zheng.

Then, the entire entourage looked Yun Jin's way. Cheng Zheng appeared to attempt to shake off the young lady's hand as he half-ran to where Yun Jin was, a huge smile spreading across his face. Yun Jin covered her mouth as she laughed. He looked energetic, completely unlike a "patient" who was being discharged.

"The hospital is an unsafe place now. Why are you here?" He spoke while purposely wearing a stern expression.

Yun Jin suppressed a smile "If you didn't mention it, I would've completely forgotten about the danger. I'll be off first in that case."

Having finished speaking, she made a motion to leave but how could Cheng Zheng allow it? He deftly shifted his position and blocked her exit "Since you're here, don't leave."

As the two were conversing, the rest of Cheng Zheng's entourage walked up to them and several pairs of eyes descended on Yun Jin in her simple attire. The beautiful young lady moved closer to Cheng Zheng and held onto him affectionately as she cocked her head slightly and looked playfully at both Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin in turn.

Cheng Zheng reacted to her touch as one would to electricity and he yelled angrily “Zhang Yue do you want to die?”

Zhang Yue frowned “Xiao Zheng Zheng how can you speak to me like this?” Once again, she held onto him and this time her grip was tighter and she stuck closely to his side. Cheng Zheng dared not use too much force and was unable to get rid of her. He said helplessly “Zhang Yue you’ve been poisoned by all those lame dramas. This act is too fake.”

Despite saying so, he still cast an anxious glance at Yun Jin who looked at him expressionless. He couldn’t read her so he said “You can’t possibly fall for this? This tentacle octopus here is my cousin Zhang Yue!” Yun Jin was still quiet and merely looked quickly at Zhang Yue although her eyes betrayed a deep thoughtfulness.

Cheng Zheng was desperate now and even Zhang Yue could tell something was off. She stuck out her tongue and loosened her grip. The bystanders, including Shen Ju An, wore an interested look as they looked forward to the scene play out.

“Yun Jin, don’t be angry. Really, I’m not lying. Here you can ask her yourself ... ZHANG YUE! Come back! ...” Cheng Zheng recalled Yun Jin’s cool demeanour over the phone in the past few days and his heart quickened. He feared that the bridge he had just established with her would crumble in the face of yet another misunderstanding. He dragged Zhang Yue over and harassed her to clarify the situation “Zhang Yue, this is all your doing. I’ll be ruined by you! Quick, explain yourself, come on!”

Yun Jin saw how frantic Cheng Zheng was and couldn’t contain her laughter anymore. Before Cheng Zheng could compute that she had laughed, she walked up to him and gave him a hug.

Cheng Zheng dangled his hands limply and for a few seconds his body was rigid as he did not know how to react. He could feel the warmth of her body enveloping him, proving what he saw was real. He slowly brought up his hands in mid air before returning the hug with all his might.

“Tsk tsk. Auntie, dad, would you look at the pair? They’re treating us as scenery. Don’t just criticize me in future.” Zhang Yue watched in satisfaction

and didn't neglect to remark.

He was hugging her too tightly and Yun Jin was finding it difficult to breath. She hurriedly pushed Cheng Zheng away and wriggled out of his embrace. The regale lady who didn't look a day over forty was actually his mother! Yun Jin knew her reckless actions had made her the centre of attention and she was so mortified that she avoided everyone's gaze and stared at the floor.

Cheng Zheng's mother did not bother to conceal her obvious scrutiny of Yun Jin as her gaze swept up and down multiple times. Yun Jin felt uneasy as she was well aware that her humble attire and family background was far inferior to the powerful family before her. However, her pride forced her to raise her head and look Cheng Zheng's mother squarely in the eyes.

She waited for aunty to reach an assessment of her. Unexpectedly, she laughed suddenly and exclaimed "So you are Su Yun Jin! I was looking so hard but I failed to see any traces of a cold-blooded person that Ah Zheng described."

"When did I say that?!" Cheng Zheng interrupted unhappily.

"In the summer of year three, after labour day in your sophomore year in university, when you were about to progress to year three. You said so on all three occasions. Do I need to bring up more details?" Zhang Jin Yin rattled off drily as Zhang Yue laughed blatantly at Cheng Zheng's predicament.

"That's funny, when people ask your age you don't remember, but things that don't concern you you recall with such clarity." Cheng Zheng deadpanned in return, angry at his mother's betrayal.

"My precious son's love life is of course a great concern of mine!" Zhang Jin Yin winked at her son.

Yun Jin thought to herself just as I was thinking mother and son don't look the least bit alike... No one can deny their relationship; the way they speak, their mannerisms, they're practically a carbon copy!

"Uncle, send them away! They're nothing but a bunch of troublemakers." Cheng Zheng pleaded with the solemn middle-aged man.

Zhang Jin Meng – a heavyweight in the business world whom Yun Jin was used to seeing on the Financial Times was now patting his nephew lovingly on the

arm as he said "Do own up Ah Zheng. You did say such a thing before. Even I remember it."

Yun Jin continued to smile, as she slowly let her guard down. She could tell that he was a blessed child to have grown up in a family that clearly doted on him. Perhaps it was this environment that helped him develop such unbridled confidence.

"Hello Yun Jin, it's been a while." Shen Ju An who had been watching the events unfold with a light smile finally greeted her.

Cheng Zheng appeared to be deep in thought and he suddenly whispered to Yun Jin "He's my cousin's boyfriend now."

"Cheng Zheng what are you mumbling about? I haven't had a chance to speak." Zhang Yue held Shen Ju An's hand and smiled at Yun Jin "It's a little complicated isn't it? That's why I always say life has all these unexpected twists and turns just like a drama." Shen Ju An looked at Zhang Yue quietly and his eyes reflected a softness in it.

Indeed real life imitated reel life; even the intertwining relationship web was so unpredictable. When she had traversed the school garden hand-in-hand with Shen Ju An, she never foresaw such a day coming.

"Yeah Ju An, it's good to see you again." Yun Jin replied.

Zhang Jin Yin smiled and nodded her head at Yun Jin who supposed this was the former's style of greeting. "My useless child has been telling me all about you all this while. As his mother, even I have grown tired of his incessant droning on about you. This is nice. He was always so impulsive as a child, now finally someone gave him a taste of hardship. But the way I see it, all misunderstandings have finally been cleared."

Yun Jin plastered a smile on her face in return.

Zhang Jin Yin said to Cheng Zheng "Since you're fine I'll make a move. Look at you, it's as though your hand is glued to hers... I know what you're thinking so tell me outright, do you want to return to your uncle's place or back to the apartment I bought you?"

Cheng Zheng expressed his wish to return to the apartment and Zhang Jin Yin

directed the chauffeur to send them there while she took her brother's car.

On the other hand, Shen Ju An and Zhang Yue had driven over in their own car. As she was about to leave, Zhang Yue instructed Cheng Zheng mischievously "Don't be overeager when you reach the apartment. If you need any advice, be sure to ask me."

At the sight of Cheng Zheng raising his fist at her in mock warning, she cackled joyfully as Shen Ju An drove off.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu, You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 22

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 22

[July 21, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [19 Comments](#)



Halfway mark! Coincidentally, Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng also achieve a relationship milestone of their own.

Chapter 22

“Don’t write this off as another misinterpretation. Because even if it were, this time I’m never letting you go.” Back in the apartment, Cheng Zheng still held onto Yun Jin tightly as though if his grip laxed, she would disappear again. The pain she inflicted when she bade him farewell after the sudden kiss was not something he wanted to experience again. He thought that if he held onto her

tightly, she would never be able to leave even if she wanted to.

Yun Jin couldn't help but feel touched on seeing him like this. She sighed "Cheng Zheng, what's so good about me? I'm not worthy of you treating me this well." This was the question that had been gnawing at her for a long time.

Cheng Zheng pouted "Su Yun Jin, you sure think highly of yourself. When have I ever said you're good? Your looks are just average and you have a difficult character. When you're stubborn, I always have this strong desire to shake you. I cannot see what's so good about you myself ... But I just love you regardless."

Yun Jin gave a faint smile. Cheng Zheng reached over and clasped her hand on his cheek "Don't pity this fool, I don't want your pity ..." Having said that, he seemed to regret it "No, wait. If it takes you to pity me to stay by my side then pitying me is alright!"

What else could Yun Jin do other than hug him tightly? After all, lovers speak volumes with their action rather than with words.

Alright, let's be together! Let's cast aside all our reservations and fear of the future. Come what may, we'll leave any regrets till tomorrow. Yun Jin was not ignorant of the irony – she had always been set on escaping, she couldn't believe that there would be such a day.

It was just as Eileen Chang had written in her novel, it took the fall of Hong Kong to the Japanese Occupation for Bai Liu Su and Fan Liu Yuan to be reunited. Could the SARS epidemic be the catalyst for their relationship developing?

Don't think me silly for giving in to self-deception for who can resist such sincerity forever? And don't ask me why after holding back for so long, all my defences have crumbled. I just want to give myself a chance.

As they embraced, time seemed to fade from their consciousness. Yun Jin did not know how much time had passed; she could only see that darkness had descended outside the window. Cheng Zheng phoned for dinner takeaway. It was simple fast-food fare but both of them dug in heartily.

Suddenly, she sensed that it was rather late but Cheng Zheng's watch reflected a time just past eight in the evening. She took it at face value but couldn't shake her doubt so she forced Cheng Zheng to hand his handphone over. When she

saw the time, she exploded in rage! It was actually 10:05pm.

Yun Jin was as stunned as she was furious. She leapt to her feet and tossed the phone angrily back at him “Would you care to explain this?”

He picked it up and looked at it intently “Oh my, how did it get so late? But this has nothing to do with me! My watch is slow. I was in the dark as well!”

“Reallyyyy?” Yun Jin stemmed her rising rage but still felt like slapping that ridiculously exaggerated innocent face. “Do you even comprehend the gravity of the matter? If I’m caught sneaking back to campus after 10, I would be punished severely!”

“Well in that case, why don’t you return tomorrow?” While he tried to sympathize with her plight, he couldn’t fully conceal the delight in his eyes.

Yun Jin wagged her finger at him in warning and couldn’t be bothered to interrogate him any further as she headed for the exit. He didn’t attempt to stop her this time but merely said coldly “So you’d rather go back and face certain punishment than stay with me for the night? You’re always so guarded around me. I’m not the monster you make me out to be.”

Yun Jin paused in her tracks as he continued “You can have the bed while I’ll sleep on the couch. It’s not safe to be walking the streets at this time anyway. It’s up to you to take my word for it.”

Yun Jin wavered at the door. Eventually, she shut it and returned unhappily to the living room. She then dialled her hostel where her bunk mate informed her “Yun Jin, we were just worrying about you! Someone had already checked our attendance but we managed to hide your absence by letting your mosquito netting down and stuffing a bolster under the blankets.” Yun Jin let out a sigh of relief and thanked her profusely. She lied that she had matters to attend to at her relative’s place and that she would rush back first thing in the morning.

After washing up, Yun Jin walked into the only bedroom in the apartment and shut the door right in his face. She had only just laid down when he pounded on the door with all his might.

“What do you want?” She put on her robe once again and opened the door. Cheng Zheng leaned against the door frame and said touchily “I knew you

women had cold hearts. You'll be comfortable sleeping here but you couldn't even spare me a blanket and pillow?"

Yun Jin mulled over his words and agreed that it made sense. She went to the cabinet and searched for a long time. However, since this was not a permanent residence, there wasn't any spare blankets apart from the blanket and quilt cover currently on the bed. Luckily, there were two pillows on the queen sized bed. Without hesitation, she grabbed a pillow and the quilt and stuffed them into Cheng Zheng's grasp before locking the bedroom door once again.

"Hey!" Cheng Zheng was displeased.

Yun Jin said firmly "You're the guy of course it's only right that you should take the quilt while I take the blanket."

"I meant to say that we've not bid each other goodnight yet."

"Goodnight!" On seeing his unamused expression, she understood immediately. With a slightly coloured face, she pointed to her left cheek with one finger. But why would Cheng Zheng follow her direction? At lightning speed, he leaned in and gave her a quick peck on the lips before yelling a triumphant "Goodnight!"

This rascal! Yun Jin returned to bed but her heart was aflutter. Even so, sleep descended on her quickly. In her stupor, she heard a familiar pounding at the door. At first, she ignored it but he was very persistent.

"Enough! Can you get any more irritating?" She pushed the door open abruptly and Cheng Zheng lost his balance and fell forward. He bargained with a pleading look "It's too cold outside. Really! I'm not lying. Besides, the couch is too narrow for me."

Yun Jin looked at the thin quilt in his hands. Indeed, the spring night still contained a certain chill. Out of consideration for him having just been discharged and recently recovering from a cold, she said emphatically "Alright, let's switch. You'll take the bed and I'll sleep on the couch." She snatched the quilt from his grasp and walked into the living room.

Cheng Zheng grabbed her wrist "How can I let a girl sleep on the couch? What kind of man would that make me?"

Yun Jin turned and looked him squarely in the eyes “Cheng Zheng for the last time, what do you want?”

“I don’t want anything.” He said grumpily. “Must you be so inflexible? Now that you’re staying here, the bed or the couch, no one would be any wiser. We can split the bed in half and we each keep to our side. Even if you begged me, I wouldn’t touch you. After suffering in the hospital, I’m too tired for any nonsense.” Having said his piece, he hopped into bed quickly and turned off the bed lamp before shutting his eyes.

For an agonizing period his heart was wrung in suspense. He waited on tenterhooks till he finally felt the mattress sink slightly. He didn’t look at her because he knew even though they were lying on the same bed, she would be situated as far from him as possible.

Yun Jin slept with her robe on as an added layer of protection and turned her back on him. She could hear his steady breathing and tried as she might, she couldn’t fall asleep. She didn’t dare move and was just contemplating moving to the couch when she felt a dishonest hand creeping up her bare back from under her shirt. She shot away as though she had been scalded and yanked his hand out “What are you doing? I knew I shouldn’t have trusted you.”

His voice sounded pitiful in the dark “Yun Jin, I can’t sleep. I keep wondering if this is a dream. Are you really here lying next to me? You don’t know but the same day I first laid eyes on you in the school corridor, I dreamed of us being here like this ...”

Although he didn’t continue, Yun Jin knew that the dream did not have any healthy content. Thankfully, he was unable to see her blush in the dark. She swallowed and didn’t respond.

“Can we ...? We don’t have to switch on the lights. We can do it in the dark. I ... I ...” Even he felt a little embarrassed as he stopped whispering in her ear.

Yun Jin froze. She was so flustered that she couldn’t speak. As she was still a young innocent girl, she couldn’t have known that *I won’t go all the way* and *I love you* were the same in that they were notorious classic lies that men spun.

“Can we? Can we ...” He shook her shoulders relentlessly like a child begging for candy. She didn’t know what to do. She wanted to reject him but she

couldn't suppress the temptation and her curiosity.

Just trust him, as long as he doesn't go all the way. He claimed not to have seen the opposite gender's body before, how was she any different? She was equally curious.

Cheng Zheng eagerly took her silence as consent. He flipped on top of her as he kissed her and undid her clothes with his other hand. Yun Jin was so red-faced that she thought she would bleed from her cheeks as she allowed him to do as he wished. When she finally had a grasp on the situation, she was already cold all over which was in stark contrast to his warm skin. She realised then there was nothing separating them anymore.

...

"CHENG ZHENG YOU LIED!" Tears rolled fast down her cheeks but she couldn't tell if it was from the pain or at the thought of having lost something precious.

"I'm sorry, I'm sorry. I ... I couldn't help it." He reached out to wipe her tears away.

"Get out now! It hurts." She cried out.

He kissed her as he begged "I'm in pain too, please bear with it for a moment..."

Cheng Zheng was no different from her and had never experienced this before. Now that she was crying, he became more flustered.

However, even as Yun Jin cried, she felt strangely comforted by this turn of events. Perhaps, she would never be alone in this world again.

They tidied up sloppily. This time Yun Jin allowed him to rest on her like a little child. She had wanted to scold him but her body wouldn't listen to her brain as her hands encircled his muscular back.

He laid on her chest and drifted in and out of sleep. The entire night, the young couple explored the forbidden pleasures of love as their bodies perspired and dried and perspired again. Eventually, Yun Jin nodded off into deep sleep while listening to Cheng Zheng repeat her name in his slumber.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#),

[xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 23

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 23

[July 22, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [16 Comments](#)



Their becoming a couple is a hard-earned victory. But will that triumphant feeling last?

Chapter 23

Were other couples like them? Their love would soar to the skies but just as easily crash to the ground.

Yu Hua would tease “This is the hell you’ve chosen.”

After Cheng Zheng was discharged, he stayed in Yun Jin’s city for two day before reluctantly making his way back to his campus. Yun Jin took a day to realize with horror that they had not taken precautionary measures in their two days of intimacy. She became ashen-faced at the thought but had no idea what she should do to remedy the situation. She’d rather die than go to the pharmacy to buy medication alone. With no other alternative, she looked up Mo Yu Hua and stammered her way through the recounting. Mo Yu Hua did not pass comment but dragged her to the pharmacy immediately.

She took the medication but since it wasn’t downed in the most opportunate moment, even Yu Hua couldn’t clear her of the risk of consequences. Yun Jin spent the entire week in fear. It was only when her period came right on time

that her apprehension was finally eased. She felt extremely lucky that the melodramas in which babies were frequently born out of wedlock was not as likely to occur in real life. She would never be as careless again.

The moment Cheng Zheng returned to Beijing, everyone in the hostel knew that Yun Jin was attached once again because Cheng Zheng was diligent in calling. To quote Xiao Wen “I can’t possibly pick up the phone more often than I already do!”

So it came to be that the usual reticent Yun Jin was often on the phone even till late in the night. Initially, Yun Jin basked in the lovely honeymoon phase of their romance. However, as time passed, Cheng Zheng’s domineering ways caused her much distress.

Little things like calling when she wasn’t in and disagreeing on certain matters would set his temper off. Luckily, his temper would quell just as quickly as it came. Yun Jin would merely give him the silent treatment so that his temper was not fuelled any further. Ultimately, he was always the one to end their cold wars.

Su Yun Jin was used to being by herself. Now that she had Cheng Zheng, she still found it hard to give all of her time and energy unreservedly to him. Even when she was with Shen Ju An, a boy she was infatuated with, she still maintained her independence. In this regard, Ju An and her were like two parallel lines; they were similar in appreciating times of solitude as they walked the same course closely. They were two separate entities that never crossed each other, figuratively. She had felt secure even in that manner of dating.

Cheng Zheng was different. He was dying to envelope Yun Jin in his affections and wanted nothing more than for them to become so close that they became one. Simultaneously, he expected Su Yun Jin to give him the same amount of attention. He wanted all of her. It would be best if even her dreams only contained him.

Yun Jin, what are you doing?

Yun Jin, what are you thinking of now?

Yun Jin, where are you?

Yun Jin I miss you. Do you miss me?

Yun Jin, why aren’t you replying?

Yun Jin, Yun Jin, Yun Jin!

Day in and out, he flooded her with texts which hinted of both his possessiveness and his child-like insecurity. Initially, Yun Jin accommodated him and would reassure him. But eventually, she lost her stamina and would keep silent on her end. However, the more unresponsiveness she was, the faster and more furious his texts came. Su Yun Jin felt that Cheng Zheng was like a ball of yarn a kitten was unravelling; he encircled her and made her feel bound yet at other times he made her feel warm and fuzzy inside.

The two of them were separated – one in the Northern and the other in the Eastern part of China. Whenever Cheng Zheng had a stretch of spare time, he would race over to Yun Jin's area. Yun Jin's heart ached over his plane fare though he couldn't be bothered with financial considerations. He felt nothing was more important than the two of them being together.

Before the first semester of their fourth year in university wound down, he gave her a cell phone so as to make it more convenient for her to find a job. Yun Jin recalled an earlier episode where he tried to give her a handphone but she had refused. In a fit of anger, Cheng Zheng dropped the new phone from his apartment window down eighteen stories. She flinched at the memory and accepted it this time round. With her new phone, it became even more convenient for him to contact her but whenever Yun Jin heard the personalized ringtone that Cheng Zheng purposely set for himself, she felt annoyed. Yun Jin just couldn't make sense of it; how could a cool person be so clingy to one he loved?

Before Chinese New Year descended on them, Yun Jin attended an employment drive organised by her university in which compatible employment companies and students were matched up. She had never been in such a populated venue before – people were packed like sardines. She was even swept along by the current and had no chance to scrutinise each stall properly. The more popular companies had such a horde of students crowding around them that Yun Jin couldn't even approach the staff. Yun Jin couldn't even gauge how desirable she was as a prospective employee so she headed for the exit and sighed.

Naturally, Cheng Zheng did not have to undergo such a discouraging

experience. His credentials as a student from his prestigious school alone made his cv more outstanding than peers in his cohort. Adding his strong family connections to that, it was not at all difficult for him to get an enviable job.

He was more inclined towards his father's architectural profession than his mother's entrepreneur one. His parents were easygoing and left it entirely up to him to choose what interested him. They only hoped that he would choose a company that was not too far from their residence. Being their beloved only child, they wanted him by their side. As his father was the president of the city's architectural union, it was even easier for him to pull strings to get his son the job of his choice.

However, Cheng Zheng had no intention of returning to his hometown. He confided in Yun Jin "There is no meaning in relying on my dad. Besides, if I returned to their side, I would have to endure his nagging. I much rather remain in Beijing. Yun Jin when you graduate, you can come over and we can be together forever."

In all honesty, Yun Jin also had no intention of returning to her own county. However, unlike Cheng Zheng's grand plan for her, she was more inclined to stay in this Southern city that had been her home for the past four years. She no longer felt like an outsider as she was fully immersed in the local lifestyle. She shared her thoughts with Cheng Zheng who merely remarked "Are you crazy? Of course you have to be with me."

Of course they had to be together Cheng Zheng had stated so matter-of-factly. But Yun Jin just could not imagine herself graduating only to up herself to the North for the sole purpose of reuniting with him. It wasn't that she didn't miss Cheng Zheng but her pensiveness towards the future had cooled all thoughts of recklessness. She was unwilling to move to a completely foreign city because then all she would have was him and nothing else. If she should lose him, she would be stuck. Yun Jin was aghast at her own considerations; she now realised how selfish she could be.

Yun Jin was mind-boggled to know that a few companies had responded to her application during the fair. One of which was a company that she really wanted to work with. She decided to attend the interview with the mindset of giving her best and leaving the rest to fate. Surprisingly, the recruiter of the

company was impressed by her composure.

Everyone in her faculty was envious of her good fortune when they learned she had signed such an elusive contract. In their society where graduates were numerous, to be able to sign on with such a well-received company was something to celebrate over. Yun Jin was delighted but also uneasy; she didn't want to know how Cheng Zheng would react when he eventually learned of this.

She knew it was inevitable so when Cheng Zheng called that night, she told him about her recent contract.

"What did you just sign? ... Please repeat yourself." Cheng Zheng had voiced with unusual calmness.

Yun Jin felt her scalp tingle as she repeated herself.

He was furious "Su Yun Jin I realise you never once consider the feelings of others."

"I ..." Before she could explain, he had already hung up.

She dialled his number frantically but he refused to pick up. In the end, he even switched his mobile off.

Yun Jin knew that with his temper, anything she said would only serve to fuel his fury. She decided to leave him be and in a few days time after he calmed down, all would be well between them again. But two, three ... five days passed and Cheng Zheng had not even contacted her once. Yun Jin finally sensed that he was really angry this time so she called him but even then, he rejected all her calls.

It wasn't that Yun Jin did not regret her actions. In fact she had searched herself, had she known he would have such a huge reaction, would she have gone ahead single-mindedly? To be perfectly honest, she hadn't considered many factors when she signed the contract. Now she felt she had been too rash. It was as he had pointed out, she never did consider his feelings... or perhaps, she had purposely chosen to neglect his position and had taken a gamble to determine if she really had feelings for him.

It was fast approaching the Lunar New Year. The school was already on winter vacation. The reason there were so many people left in the hostels was because

they were waiting for news of employment just as she had once. Yun Jin was not a clingy person by nature. After she failed to reach him despite her many attempts, she gave up on him altogether. This was despite her anguish and sorrow at how things turned out.

This year her mother had made several calls to urge her to return home for the new year. Although she had no wish to return to a family that she was not a part of, she had no excuse not to so she packed up her belongings and boarded the long train ride home two days before the new year.

In the festive period, it was expected that trains were overcrowded. Luckily, Yun Jin managed to purchase a sitting ticket. Even if the carriage was stuffed to the brim by people and their luggages, at least she was better off than those who had to stand for over ten hours.

In the carriage she was in, apart from students like herself, the majority were migrant labourers. They maximised every spare space to sleep or sit. Even though they looked weary, their eyes shone with the anticipation of returning home, No matter how tough working life was, at least there was someone waiting for them back home. They had worked tirelessly all year for this very moment when they could return to their love ones.

Yun Jin stared out at the scenery that shot past the moving train. Who was awaiting her arrival back home? She couldn't deny that her mother still loved her but now she also loved the new family. She thought back to all the times when her mother had called since the marriage and the way she spoke formally just as uncle would. She knew then she no longer had a family of her own.

This moment, she suddenly missed Cheng Zheng immensely. She missed his embrace and his warmth and sincerity. So, she was nothing without him. She laughed at her pathetic self and at her misplaced pride.

But he's still angry, Yun Jin thought. Besides, he also had to return to his home for the new year. As long as he still loved her, no matter how angry he was with her, it would pass eventually. With him around, perhaps it wouldn't be too difficult adjusting to life in Beijing, Unfortunately, breaking the contract would entail ... As Yun Jin wove in and out of sleep, she was still pondering how to deal with the consequences.

When she awoke, it was already the middle of the night. However, the lights were still on. It was a hive of activity around her. There were people who played cards and those who were deep in conversation. She studied the name of the current train stop. After sitting for over ten hours, she was finally halfway back home. Almost as if well-timed to her arousal, her phone in her pocket vibrated as she was combed her tousled hair from the sleeping. Seeing the familiar number displayed, her heartbeat quickened.

“Where on earth are you? It’s so noisy.” Yun Jin could imagine Cheng Zheng frowning as he spoke.

“I’m on the train. You? Yun Jin yelled into the phone. She was embarrassed but there was simply no other way to be heard over the din.

“Train?” Cheng Zheng grew silent before continuing “What are you doing on a train? Where are you going?”

“I’m ... going home.” Su Yun Jin suddenly felt unsure of herself.

“Hahaha.” Cheng Zheng’s exaggerated and bitter laughter could be heard over the phone. “I really don’t know what to say. It wasn’t easy for me to get here yet you are on your way home without so much as a heads-up.”

“I didn’t want to leave without informing you but you weren’t picking up my calls. Why did you come over at this time?”

“Don’t be stupid. If you refuse to come to Beijing, don’t I have to go over to you? Else am I supposed to break up with you?” Although his attitude was terrible as always, but Yun Jin could feel his warmth radiating through the phone. She had so much to tell him but she merely managed a “Wait ... wait there for me.”

The train took a further two hours to reach the next major stop. Yun Jin alighted without hesitation. It was four in the morning and dark out. This was a city that Yun Jin had never set foot on before. In the eerie quiet of the morning, she found the board which stated that the next train bound for G-city would depart in seven hours. Yun Jin asked for directions before dragging her luggage and running for the bus stand.

Even in the deserted alley, she forgot about the fear of being in a foreign place

and the chill of the early morning. All she could focus on was boarding the earliest bus to G-city that was departing in 1.5 hours. She clasped her warm face and realized her madness.

By the time the rickety bus pulled into G-city, it was already the evening of the eve of the new year. Yun Jin followed the crowd as she struggled her way to the bus terminal exit. In the mass of people, she spotted him instantly. In a split second, all the fatigue and tension in her body melted away as a smile came over her face.

Cheng Zheng had also spotted her but made no move to get to her as he studied her in a mixture of frustration and amusement. The two of them continued to stare at each other as the crowds milled all around them.

Finally, Cheng Zheng extended one hand towards her. Even with the roar of the crowd, she heard every word distinctly “Silly girl, let’s go home.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 24

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 24

[July 23, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [12 Comments](#)



We've witnessed many cute moments in the past chapters but now that Cheng Zheng's got his girl, will they succumb to the everyday trials of ordinary couples?

Chapter 24

This was the first time Su Yun Jin was celebrating the Lunar New Year outside her hometown. At least, he was by her side. She placated her mother easily by lying that she had to remain on campus to continue her job hunt. Her mother didn't probe any further. On the other hand, since Cheng Zheng was his family's beloved child, Yun Jin was surprised that his family didn't kick up a fuss when he announced he wasn't spending the new year with them.

"They are okay with this? I wish!" Cheng Zheng explained "A week ago, I told my parents I wasn't going to remain in Beijing nor was I going back. Instead, I would be heading to G-city to work. My mother was very upset to say the least and droned on about how I've abandoned her for my new girlfriend. When I told her I wasn't spending the new year with them or my uncle either, my mother retorted that she wished she could stuff me back into her womb."

"Oh no! What are you going to do about it?" Yun Jin found it both amusing

and worrying.

Cheng Zheng grinned smugly “I told her if she agreed to let me go, she would gain a daughter-in-law. If she didn’t, she would lose a son. So she had no choice but to agree albeit unwillingly.”

Yun Jin was speechless.

“As for my uncle, my aunty emigrated a few years back so uncle and Zhang Yue will surely spend their new year overseas.” Cheng Zheng added.

Even though it was just the two of them, they were determined to celebrate with no less fanfare. Apart from cuddling in the privacy of their apartment, the two also set aside time to shop for festive decorations. Only when Cheng Zheng took her traipsing across the city did Yun Jin finally realize that he was more familiar with the city than she was. She laughed at how ridiculous it must have been when Shen Ju An and she had taken him touring around the city all those months back. She also realized how desperate he must have been to fall-back on such an excuse.

The eve of the lunar new year, Cheng Zheng pasted auspicious couplets on the walls while Yun Jin personally took to the kitchen to prepare a feast. The food was surprisingly tasty and Cheng Zheng savoured it. Unlike traditionally where the atmosphere was festive and gathered family members added to the boisterous mood, they only had each other. But they certainly did not mind.

The new year was ushered in when the clock struck twelve. All over the city, fireworks went set. Cheng Zheng led Yun Jin to the balcony excitedly. Unfortunately, they were fenced in by tall buildings and they could only just make out the tiny display of fireworks in the distance. He was so annoyed that he stamped his feet indignantly like a child. Yun Jin held his hand and smiled at him; she didn’t tell him that her night didn’t need the illumination of the fireworks because with him by her side, the future didn’t seem so bleak.

If time could freeze at that moment, how wonderful it would be. Many years in the future, Yun Jin would often look back on this moment and her heart would still wish the same. But she knew that people shouldn’t be too greedy. In the coming days, no matter the hurdles, she was always grateful to have experienced this moment.

Yun Jin's final semester in university passed in the blink of an eye. Her batchmates who had yet to find a job still searched relentlessly while those who did adopted the lazy life of a pig by indulging in snacking and sleeping. Although school was on-going, many lectures experienced a dip in attendance. Even for the big school debate, the lecturers turned a blind eye to the absentees who had already found jobs as long as the absentee numbers weren't too staggering.

In contrast, Cheng Zheng was busier than ever. He was always diligent and he had no intention of slowing down even when he approached graduation. He had successfully signed on with a big architectural firm in G-city that was one of the six renowned architectural corporations in the country. Without relying on his family's influence, it was no easy feat to land such a job. However, Yun Jin was fully aware that although Cheng Zheng's father had not asked any favours, but given his longstanding friendship with Cheng Zheng's new boss, Cheng Zheng's future would indubitably be smoothsailing.

In this manner, the two of them wrapped up their university years and began life as a couple in Cheng Zheng's cosy apartment. Initially, Cheng Zheng's parents wanted to buy them a larger apartment but Yun Jin had declined, saying the current space was enough for them both. Besides, the current apartment was located in a prime area in the sprawling city – it was located near both their workplaces so there was no need to move or upgrade to a bigger apartment. Cheng Zheng's uncle Zhang Jin Meng understood that young people didn't like to be restricted and so didn't insist on them moving to his place either but allowed them to live as they pleased.

The initial phase was all very dreamy; the two would have breakfast before departing for work together. When they ended work in the evening, they would meet to buy groceries. Yun Jin was a competent chef and succeeded in priming Cheng Zheng's palate. After dinner, they would either adjourn to the nearest cinema for a movie or would roam the streets hand-in-hand or snuggle at home in front of the television before sleeping together. In the latter instances, Cheng Zheng always felt blissful and even Yun Jin mused contentedly that her Cinderella had truly met her prince to spend their eternity together.

Since the two had a complicated relationship for many years before falling in love, the actual amount of time spent alone together was not considerable. Now

that they faced each other day in and out, the honeymoon phase quickly passed and many problems surfaced – problems they never knew before or had purposely ignored previously.

Firstly, Cheng Zheng was an outdoorsman. While he could quieten down to study and work, he didn't like spending his spare time cooped up at home. This was especially when he had to face neverending blueprints at work. He wanted to release the tension after work and often followed his colleagues to the gymnasium, soccer court or popular pubs to unwind.

Yun Jin was the exact opposite. She preferred quiet places and would rather stay at home after work even if she had to do the household chores or listening to music. Her favorite activity was to play Go on the internet. She seldom met up with her friends and only occasionally sought out Mo Yu Hua or her university hostel mates. She was not even inclined towards women's favourite past-time of shopping.

Cheng Zheng had dragged her to various karaoke lounges and pubs and she never lasted. She would tire of the din halfway though she never had the heart to interrupt Cheng Zheng's fun so she would merely sit in quiet agony. After suffering twice or thrice, Cheng Zheng never forced her again although he still loved to cling to her and would try to return home to her as soon he could. So whenever Yun Jin was deep in thought over her next game move as was customary and ignored him, he would become fidgety and irritated.

In this manner, the two of them stubbornly stuck to their interests and didn't force each other to change. They were happy like that. Luckily, although Cheng Zheng loved to go out, he knew his limits. Although he never boasted about his family background, anyone could tell from his mannerisms that he did not come from a typical family. Furthermore, his appearance was striking and he had confidence. Thus, he had no lack of unwanted female attention and was popular amongst his colleagues. He was courteous to both genders and while he enjoyed himself, he never went overboard. He kept repeating that he was a devoted one-woman man although everyone had their secret doubts about the mysterious female flatmate he had. But seeing that he never wavered, they respected his principles.

Whenever he was out having fun, Yun Jin seldom called to check on him or

urge him home. In contrast, he would automatically leave for home when it got too late. It wasn't that he didn't have regrets. Sometimes, he would see his counterparts' wives or girlfriends calling to check on them and he was envious. He secretly hoped that she would be just like them one day and be just as clingy towards him. But no matter what time he returned, she would merely leave one light on for him and go to bed first or continue doing her other stuff. She never once restricted his activities.

Apart from their disparity in personalities, Cheng Zheng who had been born with a silver spoon in his mouth and was spoilt since young, naturally had never lifted a finger to do the household chores. Everything was left to the elderly housekeeper to handle. When he studied in Beijing in the four years, his parents had bought a nearby apartment for him and they also hired a part-time help for him. Even then, his elderly housekeeper was not satisfied and would make frequent trips to Beijing to look after the boy she had watched grow up. Now that he lived with Yun Jin, he was unwilling to have an additional person in the house to witness their intimacy so all the chores became Yun Jin's duty. He wasn't even willing to wash his cutlery, never mind the apartment.

While Yun Jin did not grow up in such a fortunate environment, nonetheless, she was also her parent's darling and she never had to do the chores as she did now. When they first started living together, she couldn't tolerate Cheng Zheng's clumsiness and ignorance when it came to household chores. Seeing that she was a little more skilled than he was, she took it upon herself to see to everything. But as time passed, she was weary. Sometimes she would return home to see Cheng Zheng playing computer games. Other times when he returned late, he would grumble about his hunger almost as soon as he entered the house. She would be so furious at his thoughtlessness that she was rendered speechless.

She had tried washing her hands off the household chores and depriving him of food and fresh laundry just to spur him into action. Amazingly, he would turn a blind eye to the state of the house and would merely find space on the couch by tossing the things on it on the floor. When the clothes accumulated such that there was no more fresh attire, he would send it to the nearest laundrymat for washing. As for his underwear, he would throw them after wearing them once. It

was even simpler when it came to meals. There were many eateries in their vicinity and all it took was a phonecall for takeaway to be delivered. Yun Jin always gave in ultimately and would take up her position as his free slave once again whilst enduring his smug comments.

Sometimes Cheng Zheng would pity her and suggest hiring a part-timer. However, Yun Jin didn't see the need to waste money. Moreover, she knew deep down that even while he didn't like to handle his own chores, he had high expectations. Even the household necessities were all of good quality. If his clothes had a little crease, he would refuse to wear them. How could any part-timer meet his demands?

Luckily, Yun Jin worked in customer service, dealing mostly with complaints and clients' enquiries. It was on the whole not very demanding work. Compared to the prospect of Cheng Zheng erupting at the help, she would rather juggle her work and the household chores. However, it was inevitable that friction would arise occasionally.

Yun Jin would say "Cheng Zheng, how hard is it to wash your own socks?"

Cheng Zheng would reply cheekily "If it's not hard, then don't be upset with me over this."

It was perfectly normal for a young couple to fight when they cohabit due to clashing personalities and differences. However, Cheng Zheng had a fiery temper and acted more wilfully and childishly in the presence of his loved ones. On the other hand, Yun Jin was meek on the exterior but stubborn inside so even when she kept her silence, she refused to budge on matters. She may give in to him at times but when it became too frequent, she would explode as well. The two butt heads often and there were plenty of conflicts. But because of their young passion, all the fighting and skirmishes would be resolved in the throes of intimacy.

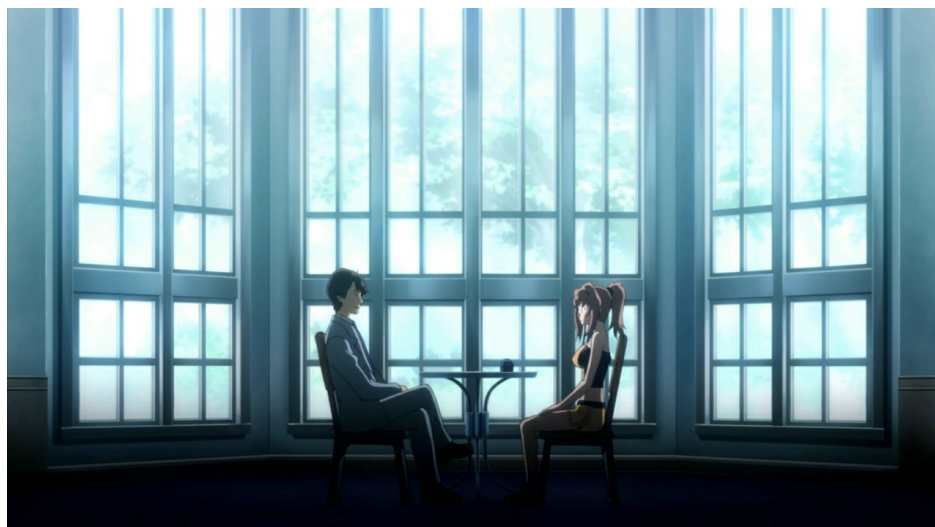
There was an old saying: opposites attract. It was perhaps an apt description of them.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 25

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 25

[July 24, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [13 Comments](#)



So ... who still remembers Shen Ju An?

Chapter 25

On Lunar New Year's eve the following year, Shen Ju An and Zhang Yue's wedding invitation arrived. Zhang Yue was over the moon to say the least and Cheng Zheng was the very first person she called to tell of the wonderful news. She said since they were family, she would save on his wedding invitation and that she looked forward to Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin being there on her special day. She added cheekily that she would ask for their assistance if she should require it. Compared with the free-spirited Zhang Yue who had spent most of her life abroad, Shen Ju An was a stickler for tradition – he insisted on personally delivering Yun Jin an invite.

They arranged to meet on Yun Jin's lunch break one wintry afternoon at a nearby cafe. They were lucky that day because the sun made a grand appearance in the sky. Seeing the wedding invitation that he was slowly sliding her way, she said "Actually Zhang Yue has already called to inform us. We know all about it."

He replied "Zhang Yue telling you is her initiative. Now, I'm inviting you in my

name. You should know I don't have many friends and relatives."

Yun Jin bowed her head and laughed "If I were to congratulate you now, would it seem very pretentious?"

Shen Ju An responded with mirth "I should really act a little more awkward as befits our complicated past."

Yun Jin chuckled once again "To receive an ex-boyfriend's wedding invitation, I should feel a little sad and wistful."

"There are too many coincidences in life." He said gently, lacking none of the warmth of yesteryear.

"No matter what, I must congratulate you. Really Ju An, I wish you and Zhang Yue a life of eternal happiness." When Yun Jin raised her head to meet his gaze, her face was full of sincerity.

"Thank you." Shen Ju An smiled lightly as he gently swirled the ice in his beverage.

Yun Jin studied the wedding invite. There was a picture of Zhang Yue and Shen Ju An's wedding shoot on the pink thick card. The design was exquisite and not at all gaudy. She could tell a lot of thought had been invested in it.

"Zhang Yue must have overseen the designing; she has always had an eye for detail. You're very lucky you know, Zhang Yue is a wonderful person." Yun Jin truly meant every word she said for although Zhang Yue was a young heiress, she was generous and had hardly any character flaws.

"You're right. She's really wonderful." Shen Ju An's focus was still on his icy beverage. In such wintry weather, customers who ordered chilled beverages was few and far between. "Actually ... it doesn't even matter if she's wonderful or not." His tone remained light.

Shock flashed across Yun Jin's eyes momentarily but she chose not to pass comment.

Shen Ju An laughed as he said "I'm marrying someone called 'Zhang Yue'. Her surname and influential father, that's all I care for. Anything else doesn't matter."

“Why are you telling me this?” Yun Jin could no longer find it in herself to force out a smile. He was still the handsome and gentlemanly boy she knew, how could his words be colder than ice? “My good friend once told me that to live and let live is blissfulness so while I won’t comment on your perspective, you shouldn’t hurt her.”

“No one deserves to be hurt.” He sipped his water with deliberation as though oblivious to the cold. “Trust me, like I’ve said before, I know what I want. Moreover, I’m giving her a husband she wants and a relationship she longs for. There’s nothing more she could want.”

Yun Jin didn’t debate with him. She looked hard at him and remembered a line from a classic novel: People can be heartless or moving. Who can resist a man with such a warm smile? She started to realise that maybe Cheng Zheng’s childishness may not be quite as unbearable as she thought.

“Why are you telling me this?” she repeated as she sighed inwardly.

“Don’t be mistaken Yun Jin, I’m not trying to restore our past relationship. I’m telling you all this simply because I feel we’re the same in certain ways. This could be why I’ve always been attracted to you.”

Yun Jin’s finger lightly traced out the sun on the window next to her. She took a long while before replying “You’re wrong Ju An. We are nothing alike.”

“Is that so?” His smile was unreadable.

That night when Yun Jin returned home, she looked at Cheng Zheng tenderly. After the two of them had their moment of passion, Yun Jin was about to doze off while lying in Cheng Zheng’s embrace when she felt something cold touch her ear. She reached up to find a pair of earrings.

She rested on the headboard and took it off and studied it intently. It turned out to be a pair that they had come across while shopping. The small, blue pair of earrings had been placed in an inconspicuous corner of the window display. Cheng Zheng had noticed that she had taken a fancy to it and had immediately asked the counter staff for it. On closer inspection, there was a tear-shaped aquamarine crystal in it which made it seem more dignified. Aquamarine stones are typically not very pricey but because the two crystals in the earrings were of exceptional clarity combined with top-notch workmanship by an esteemed

craftsman, Yun Jin quickly set it down after noting the price.

Cheng Zheng had insisted they get it because he had always wanted to get her jewellery but she had never displayed interest in such items before. Now that there was finally one that she was interested in, how could he not buy it?

Seeing how adamant he was, she tried to quell his impulsiveness, “You can buy it if you really want to but you can only use your salary. Don’t touch your family’s money. Besides, I have no earholes so even if you buy it, I can’t wear it.”

Cheng Zheng had no choice but to leave the shop empty-handed that day. Yun Jin had assumed that with time, he would forget about this. Who knew that he would persist in scrimping and saving up for months? Additionally, he commissioned the jeweller to change it to a clip-on design.

Yun Jin was moved as she carefully put it on once again. The two small aquamarine crystals dangled slightly and was a perfect match with her disposition.

“Don’t you ever lose it.” Cheng Zheng said as he rested on her chest.

Yun Jin stroked his hair lightly and said “Don’t you ever abandon me.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 26

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 26

[July 25, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [11 Comments](#)



Time flies even in the fictional world! It's the Lunar New Year once again. Three chapters ago, our dear couple overcame one of their biggest disagreements which culminated in a moving reunion. Would this festive season be as eventful as previously?

Chapter 26

The much-anticipated Lunar New Year descended on the nation once again. As the largest-scaled national holiday, Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng both had a week off work. The previous year, both did not return home to celebrate. It was alright for Cheng Zheng because he had many opportunities to see his family throughout the year – his parents would occasionally make special stopovers to check in on him. As for Yun Jin, she had not seen her mother in over a year. She had conflicted emotions towards her mother; she missed her yet wanted to avoid her.

This year, her mother had phoned her early on and insisted she return to

spend the new year together. More importantly, her mother had confided in the wee hours of the morning that because uncle's clothing factory faced stiff competition coupled with poor management, they had made a loss in the past two years. Since they couldn't turn the situation around, they sold the company at a discounted rate to repay their debts. Now, the family of three survived on uncle's savings. Although they were not exactly in dire straits, their living situation was incomparable to the past. Although Yun Jin was not close to her uncle, she was forever grateful that he had paid for her university education. As family, it was only right that she went back to pay a visit.

Two days before the start of the Lunar New Year, Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng flew back to their hometown. They alighted to find Cheng Zheng's parents and chauffeur already awaiting their arrival at the airport. His parents beseeched Yun Jin to stay with them a couple of days but Yun Jin's heart was set on returning home quickly. Moreover, she and Cheng Zheng had yet to wed thus she didn't think it was appropriate for her to spend the new year with his family. They were unable to make her stay and had no choice but to make arrangements for her to be sent back to the county. Cheng Zheng insisted on personally seeing her to her doorstep before reuniting again with his parents in the provincial capital.

While Yun Jin's mother had anticipated her return, she was still overwhelmed with emotions when they finally met. Yun Jin was no different; her heart ached to see her mother appearing wan after a year of not meeting. Obviously, she had not been truthful of the extent of their financial situation. Even uncle was not as chirpy as before. As her step-sister was still very young, she was very shy and spoke little to Yun Jin.

After dinner, Yun Jin and her mother finished washing up the utensils before adjourning to the master bedroom for a heart-to-heart talk. Yun Jin pressed her bank book into her mother's hands and said it was the least she could do as her daughter. Her mother initially refused but accepted it eventually. Truth be told, while Yun Jin had worked for the better half of a year, her savings were not substantial but working in prosperous G-city meant that her income was in the mid-range. Furthermore, staying with Cheng Zheng meant she saved on her accommodation. She had always insisted on sharing the utility bill and contributing to the living expenses but regardless, she was by his side and he

would look after her and would never insist that she walk the talk. She did not need to worry about her own expenses so she did not hesitate to give them to her mother. She had no idea if her contribution was any help at all, but it was all she had.

Her mother comforted her by saying that the bleakest period had already passed. Uncle had stayed at home directionless but recently, at his friend's recommendation, he had been hired as a supervisor by another textile factory and would start work after the new year. Although he would be working in someone else's company from thereon, it was a much larger scale than the one he owned previously so he had more breathing space and did not worry about being unable to adapt to his new role as a subordinate.

"This is wonderful! It's all due to uncle being so capable." Yun Jin's worries were finally soothed.

"He may be capable, but he also required luck." Mommy sighed.

Yun Jin thought it awkward to probe so she asked in a roundabout manner if uncle had treated her well. Her mother blushed as she said at this age there was nothing more she could ask for. Seeing her mother's blissful smile, Yun Jin knew that her mother had found someone she could spend the remainder of her life with. As her daughter, there was nothing Yun Jin wanted more than for her mother to be happy. She also had Cheng Zheng by her side. Would her father be comforted to know that the two most important women in his life had found their respective happiness?

Having poured out her worries, Yun Jin felt relieved of her burdens. So at their reunion dinner, the family of four ate in happiness and Yun Jin even toasted uncle a couple of times. She felt her cheeks heating up no thanks to the alcohol but at least her heart was finally at peace. She was just about to call Cheng Zheng when he beat her to it.

He went on and on about how he missed her as though he couldn't bear them to be apart for even a day. He also brought up the fact that it was about time both sets of parents met to lend their relationship some formality. Yun Jin hesitated; she felt that it was too abrupt but because she was under the influence of alcohol, she was no match for Cheng Zheng's persistence and

agreed ultimately.

She had agreed because she wanted to pacify him but she didn't expect Cheng Zheng to see to the matter so efficiently. Early the next day, he called to inform her that his parents were available at the very instant and wanted to settle on a venue. Yun Jin didn't know if she should laugh or cry. Today was the first day of the Lunar New Year; no one with the presence of mind would arrange it on such an important day. She pleaded with him to be rational and only then did he agree to postpone the meeting till the next day. He added that his parents were willing to accommodate Yun Jin's family and travel over to their county and meet at a venue of their choice.

When the call ended, Yun Jin had no choice but to inform her mother and uncle about this arrangement. To her surprise, they strongly criticised it; how could they trouble their prospective in-laws to come all the way to their humble county? They were adamant that they should be the ones to travel over to the city. Yun Jin left the decision up to them and notified Cheng Zheng of their wishes. Cheng Zheng's family respected their opinion as well and proceeded to book a hotel they frequented. When the call ended, Cheng Zheng's father even personally rang her up to invite them over in his name.

Yun Jin had not expected such a simple affair to be blown out of proportions and take on such a formal tone but the details had already been fixed and she didn't want to create more fuss.

On the second day of the Lunar New Year, her mother and uncle rose early to prepare themselves before waking Yun Jin and her step-sister. Yun Jin was amused to observe that her mother had put on her best dress while uncle was wearing his wedding suit. At the same time, she could not deny feeling touched. No matter if they were rich or poor, all parents were of the same mindset in wanting the best for their children.

The family went through many rounds of accessory changes before finally leaving for the city. Before they boarded the bus, Yun Jin's step-sister was scolded by uncle for not having memorised a list of auspicious wishes to greet Cheng Zheng's parents. Yun Jin stepped in hastily before the mood soured.

After making a quick stopover to buy the county's famous product as a gift,

they took the hour-odd bus journey to the city. By the time they reached, it was almost noon. Yun Jin refused to allow Cheng Zheng to pick them up so they hailed a taxi from the bus terminal and made their way to the restaurant.

The cab finally arrived in front of the hotel. After disembarking, Yun Jin studied the building before her; the grand lobby was luxurious but not ostentatious. Although it was located in the heart of the city, it was peaceful and had no hint of the noisy alleyways that the city was famous for. There were few cars to be seen driving around the roads bordering the hotel. One could tell that it wasn't an ordinary hotel that members of the public could frequent.

Cheng Zheng was already at the entrance. When he saw Yun Jin's parents, he approached them quickly and greeted them respectfully. Her mommy and uncle were quick to return the greetings enthusiastically. Cheng Zheng wanted to help them with the parcels they were carrying but they wouldn't let him so Yun Jin smiled and said "Uncle, let the youths carry it. It's only right." Cheng Zheng smiled and reached for the parcel successfully before the restaurant manager beside him led them to a private room on the second floor.

When the staff opened the doors, her mother whispered to Yun Jin nervously "There is nothing wrong with my attire right?" Yun Jin didn't reply but merely squeezed her mother's hand.

At their arrival, Cheng Zheng's parents stood up to receive them. After exchanging pleasantries, both families took their seats. While sitting, uncle insisted that Cheng Zheng sit before he did. With Yun Jin watching closely, Cheng Zheng didn't dare and subsequently both of them engaged in a ridiculous politeness gridlock. Cheng Zheng's father finally intervened and had to formally invite uncle to sit before the matter was resolved. Yun Jin was a little bewildered and assumed uncle was being overly gracious so she kept quiet.

As they spoke casually, the waiters served dish after dish seamlessly. Cheng Zheng's father Cheng Yan Sheng and his mother Zhang Jin Yin were dressed in casual attire which didn't reflect their lofty status in the least. The man was refined while the lady was demure, they had a well-to-do aura that more than made up for their appearance lest one thought otherwise. The couple behaved just like any other ordinary set of parents would and spoke casually with their prospective in-laws. Cheng Yan Sheng was friendly but also a man of few words;

he had the dignified air of a scholar. On the other hand Zhang Jin Yin was chatty and she more than made up for her husband's reticence.

When all the dishes had been served, the hosts offered a toast "The dishes here may not be the best, but it's rare to come by such a clean place that befits a meeting between family. I hope it's up to your expectations. Let's drink to the new year and to the first time we meet."

At this, the rest of them rose and downed the alcohol except for Yun Jin's young step-sister. As Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng drank, they grinned at each other happily. Before they could sit again, uncle quickly snatched up the bottle of wine and poured another cup for Cheng Yan Sheng who was seated next to him. Cheng Yan Sheng bowed and thanked him. Then, uncle poured for Zhang Jin Yin who beckoned for the waiter to take over as she exclaimed "You're too kind."

Uncle offered a toast "I'm not being kind. Director Cheng and Director Zhang, words cannot express how grateful I am towards you. I'm not good with words so let me use this cup to represent my gratitude towards you for taking care of my family."

Yun Jin's chopsticks froze in mid-air as her confused gaze alternated between uncle and Cheng Zheng's parents. Zhang Jin Yin coughed lightly but the smile on the face remained "We're going to be family soon so please dispense with ceremony. Cheng Zheng, do ensure that uncle and aunty are eating well." Cheng Zheng cast a look at Yun Jin as he quickly motioned to the waiter to top up their soup before personally putting food on Yun Jin's plate.

Yun Jin vaguely felt that something was not quite right but Cheng Yan Sheng had already directed the conversation on to another topic. Both sets of parents talked about ordinary matters and the atmosphere was pleasant. In the middle of the meal, Zhang Jin Yin asked after Yun Jin's mother's health. The latter replied "It's alright. Thank you for asking. If I wasn't feeling so weak these days, I would have also applied for work at the factory. I must be getting old."

Cheng Zheng interrupted "Your health is more important."

Uncle then turned to Zhang Jin Yin "Don't worry Director Zhang. Once the New Year has passed, I will report to Manager Li. I'm familiar with the textile business operations, you can be rest assured ..."

“Uncle, try this. It’s quite delicious.” Yun Jin interrupted him and placed choice meat on his plate.

She finally made sense of it all. She was really dense; she should have known that life was not so smooth-sailing. How could she have attributed her uncle’s recent employment to lady luck? That such an enviable job offer should simply fall into his lap, it wasn’t divine intervention but a human orchestrated one.

As the adults spoke, Zhang Jin Yin’s coat which was draped over her seat slipped off onto the floor. Before any of the staff could react, uncle leapt off his seat and bent over to pick it up. He scrutinized it carefully for any traces of dust before draping it in its original position. Yun Jin closed her eyes as a familiar unpleasant feeling enveloped her. She had almost forgotten the incident five years ago when Meng Xue had given her the envelope. That was comparable to Zhang Jin Yin’s coat incident and Yun Jin grew so red that she felt dizzy. After all these years, nothing had changed.

She opened her eyes and discovered Cheng Zheng staring anxiously at her. So they all had known except her. But what right did she have to be unhappy? Cheng Zheng’s parents meant well; they knew Cheng Zheng loved her so they were extremely willing to help out her family crisis. Yun Jin knew also that her uncle and mother did in actual fact need the job.

She smiled at Cheng Zheng before bending her head and eating wordlessly. She never tasted food this bitter. She struggled to keep the food down as she chewed slowly and purposefully, all while plastering a smile on her face.

After dinner, Cheng Zheng’s parents invited Yun Jin’s family to stay for a few days. Yun Jin and her mother declined as they had other relatives they needed to visit so Cheng Zheng’s parents didn’t force them.

Cheng Zheng pulled Yun Jin to a corner and said “Your mom can do the visiting. Please stay.”

Yun Jin smiled in response “Aren’t you tired of seeing me everyday?”

His mouth twitched mischievously as he whispered into her ear. The content of his words caused Yun Jin to blush as she glared hatefully at him. The adults took in their actions and chuckled without passing comment.

Back home, they were in the midst of removing their shoes when her step-sister asked curiously “Who are the people we met today? Are they sister’s boyfriend’s family or daddy’s boss?”

Yun Jin froze as uncle yelled “What do you children know? Why do you ask such brainless questions?”

Her step-sister was upset at being on the receiving end of an unfair reprimanding so she made a few clever remarks of her own. At that, uncle’s hand flew up and Yun Jin quickly held him back “Don’t be angry uncle. You just said that children know nothing so don’t take issue with her words. Besides, she wasn’t completely wrong.”

She quickly directed her sister into the bedroom as her mother looked at her conflicted.

“Yun Jin, uncle isn’t that capable. We didn’t mean to keep you in the dark but our family’s situation ...”

Yun Jin slipped out of her jacket and brushed off imaginary dust “Since we’re family, why say all this? Uncle, it’s been a long day. I’m turning in now and you have a good rest too.”

She turned and headed for her room but her mother’s caught the edge of her sleeve “Yun Jin ...”

Yun Jin studied the face of her only direct kin left in the world before breaking into a smile “Mom, what’s wrong? This isn’t a bad thing. It may seem that they’re our benefactors, but if uncle wasn’t capable, Cheng Zheng’s family would not have been willing to come to our aid by extending such an offer.”

“If our family wasn’t in such dire circumstances, your uncle and I would have never put you in such a difficult position. You are my daughter and I want you to live a good life, a life far better than mine. From what I can tell, that Cheng boy treats you well and his parents are good people.”

Yun Jin patted her mother’s hand lightly “Uncle has a good job and both of you are healthy. That’s all I ask for.”

Ultimately, Cheng Zheng did know her. She received his text as she was about to sleep “You still mind so you’re unhappy. Maybe I was wrong to let mom help

your uncle out. But all I really want is for you to be happy.”

Yun Jin clasped the phone to her heart and took a long time to reply “I’m not that ungrateful. I understand. Thank you.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 27

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 27

[July 26, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [18 Comments](#)



Wedding time!

Chapter 27

Eventually, the lunar new year vacation ended so Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng made their way back to G-city together. Life settled into a predictable routine. Yun Jin tried her best not to let her uncle's matter get to her. She wasn't going to allow that to come between Cheng Zheng and her. She hoped that everything would go smoothly for uncle and that he would work hard so as not to abuse Cheng Zheng's family's goodwill.

Shen Ju An's and Zhang Yue's wedding took place two weekends later. Because Zhang Yue had spent a greater part of her life living abroad, she was heavily influenced by Western culture. Furthermore, her parents were staunch Christians so the wedding had a Western vibe to it.

The entire ceremony was not as lavish as Yun Jin had imagined. Rather, it was a low-key affair. The only attendees were family and close friends. Reporters and other well-wishes were politely turned away at the door. The venue was on the golf-fields of one of the Zhang Corporation hotels. Following the wedding ceremony was a casual buffet-styled wedding reception.

Yun Jin took a glass of beverage from one of the waiters and seated herself on a bench behind a short tree to bask in the warm sunlight alone. At first Cheng Zheng had accompanied her and introduced her to his various relatives and friends on the grounds. But slowly, he increasingly encountered familiar people some of whom were Zhang Yue's and his young playmates who were of similar backgrounds and upbringing. After not having seen each other in such a long while, there was naturally much to catch up on so Yun Jin left him to reminisce with his pals. Initially, Cheng Zheng was reluctant to part with her as he didn't want her to feel lonesome but she insisted that she was fine on her own.

She sipped at her beverage and inhaled the natural fragrance of the greenery as she studied the well-dressed guests around her. If not for Cheng Zheng, this was a world she would have never been a part of. As she was so used to his presence, she hadn't noticed there was anything special about him. But now as she assumed an observer role watching him hang out with fellow eligible bachelors, she noticed that no one could outshine him. Zhang Yue and he were both laughing and having a good time. Undeniably, this was their world.

On the other hand, Shen Ju An who Zhang Yue was holding onto had little to say. He maintained a courteous smile as he accompanied his new bride. His fitted tuxedo made him more handsome and refined than usual. Yun Jin felt acutely that Ju An was like a jade statue – he appeared to be approachable and charming but he was cold inside. If you really knew him, you would realise that his smile was actually aloof and distant. Even now, his heart was not in it.

Yun Jin was amused at her discovery. Amongst the people gathered there, apart from Zhang Yue who was a variable, she understood Ju An the best. While he normally exercised good control of his emotions, he couldn't hide the worry and unease in his eyes from Yun Jin. But Yun Jin wasn't a nosey person; Since Shen Ju An had already walked out of her life, she had no reason to pry.

She observed the newlyweds for a long time. Eventually, Ju An whispered in

Zhang Yue's ear before politely excusing himself from the gang. While he appeared to be roaming the grounds casually, on closer inspection, he seemed to be searching intently for something. As his search continued to yield no results, the anxiety in his eyes became more and more apparent. Unintentionally, he was headed in Yun Jin's direction.

"Have you found it?" Yun Jin decided to call out when he neared instead of keeping mum in the corner.

"Yun Jin?" Surprise flitted across his face. He resumed his usual leisurely smile "How come you're here alone?"

"Have you misplaced something important?" Yun Jin refused to deviate from the topic.

Shen Ju An did not reply but his eyes grew cold with a cutting stare. Yun Jin remained unmoved. After a while, he laughed although his expression was despondent "Yes it's very important to me. I've lost my ring."

Yun Jin was bewildered as she stared at the dazzling diamond-encrusted piece on his ring finger "Your ring? Isn't it on your finger?"

Shen Ju An lifted his hand thoughtfully and stared at the ring in slight distaste. It was a one-of-a-kind band whose every diamond was cut with flawless precision and it was now reflecting brilliantly under the natural light.

"No, it's not this ring. It's an ordinary gold ring. I must have dropped it somewhere." His helplessness and distressed tone was something Yun Jin was unfamiliar with. She knew the pain of losing something precious could not be feigned even by the most scheming of hearts.

"Do you need my help?" Yun Jin asked.

Shen Ju An was just about to speak when footsteps sounded from behind him.

"Ju An what are you doing here? ... Oh you're here too Yun Jin? Cheng Zheng has been looking everywhere for you." Zhang Yue teased.

"Hi Zhang Yue." Yun Jin quickly greeted her.

"What interesting conversation are you having? I couldn't find you just now." Zhang Yue's tone had an undercurrent of slight annoyance although her

expression was still tender and playful.

“Oh I dropped something and since Ju An was nearby, I asked him to help me look for it.” Yun Jin thought on her feet quickly.

“What is it?” Zhang Yue asked, genuinely worried for her friend.

“It’s a ring.”

Unexpectedly, Zhang Yue gave a dismissive look before fishing out a plain gold ring from her purse.

“Is this the one? A waiter handed it to me. I was just about to make an announcement if anyone had misplaced this.”

Yun Jin sneaked a quick look at Shen Ju An. She could tell that this was the aforementioned ring so she accepted it eagerly and thanked Zhang Yue profusely.

Zhang Yue chuckled as she stopped her “No need to thank me silly. But if it’s really so important, better not lose it again. You might not be so lucky next time. Oh yes Yun Jin, Ju An and I have to greet some elders now, would you come with us?”

Of course Yun Jin declined though she continued to plaster a grateful smile on her face. Zhang Yue and Shen Ju An had just left when she noticed that Cheng Zheng was engaged in a hearty conversation nearby. It turned out that he had accompanied Zhang Yue over but had been waylaid by an old friend whom he was still talking to. She wondered if he had heard their conversation. He parted from his friend shortly and made his way over where the first thing he did was stick out his hand and demanded “What nice thing did you get? I want to see.”

Yun Jin dangled the ring in front of him teasingly “Here it is.”

“Wasn’t this with Zhang Yue just now? How come it’s ended up with you?”

Yun Jin laughed as she patted him on the head “Don’t be a busybody. Anyway, it’s not yours.”

Cheng Zheng leapt back immediately “Should a man’s head be patted? I’m not a dog!”

Yun Jin was glad that he didn’t pursue the matter. While she could have easily

assumed ownership of the ring by lying that it was from her mother or feign any other plausible excuse, she was unwilling to deceive him.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 28

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 28

[July 28, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [12 Comments](#)



Money is the root of all evil and once again it rears its ugly head. It's tragic because we know that both Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin care little for money unlike a certain someone who also gets involved albeit unwittingly ...

Chapter 28

Spring passed uneventfully. Cheng Zheng's birthday was going to be in the early days of August. Ten-odd days before the big day, he had already reminded Yun Jin umpteen times about his upcoming special day. Yun Jin thought long and hard about a suitable present, a task made more difficult because he insisted that he didn't want any gift that can be bought with money. Although his father Cheng Yan Sheng never spoilt him with materialistic possessions, for his dear son's 23rd birthday, he and his wife Zhang Jin Yin decided to buck tradition and get him a special gift which would remain a surprise.

To ensure that he reserved his special day for Yun Jin, Cheng Zheng started holding birthday celebrations with his different batches of colleagues and friends many days before it. One night, Yun Jin was alone at home and halfway through

a Go match when she received a call from her uncle's handphone. In all these years, uncle rarely talked to her so mother was their common channel. Yun Jin had a premonition that something bad was about to happen.

Perhaps the whole world is truly under the terror of Murphy's Law – the more afraid you were of something happening, the more likely it would befall you. Uncle had only made it through half his speech but Yun Jin's heart had already plunged into an abyss.

Hey mother had been suffering from malaise for a long period. Originally, everyone assumed it was just an ordinary gynaecological issue. However after two months, her mother could not bear with it any longer and headed for the hospital for a thorough investigation only to discover it was mid-stage cervical cancer. Uncle had been caught off-guard and he admitted her into the hospital immediately.

An operation and treatment expenses totalled to a great sum of money. Mother didn't have insurance coverage and uncle was no longer as well-off as he once was. To tide through this, he had misappropriated company funds in his capacity as manager. He had intended to put the funds back before the year-end accounting was done but unfortunately, as fate would have it, this August the entire company was being subject to sudden account checks and his branch was next. Where on earth was he going to find such a large sum of money in time? If his fraud was uncovered, not only would he lose his job, but his reputation would also be ruined. The only silver lining was that mom's condition stabilised with that timely sum of money.

"How much is it?" Yun Jin ordered herself to remain composed but her voice still quivered.

"One hundred and fourteen thousand."

"One hundred ..." Yun Jin's voice trailed off.

"Yun Jin, you must understand your mom needed chemotherapy. And then there was also expensive medication ..." Uncle jumped in anxiously.

"She's my mother! *My own mother!* Why didn't you tell me in the first instance instead of touching money you had no business to? Why!" Yun Jin lost her cool and interrupted her uncle as tears poured down her face. "It's been two months.

How long did you intend to hide it from me? What do you want me to do now?"

Uncle was startled at her outburst and he became even more incoherent "Yun Jin ... It's not like that ... Your mom is fine at the moment. We didn't want to inform you at first because your mom didn't want you to worry cause even if we did tell you, you have only just started working, where would you have that kind of money? ... I know Cheng Zheng is rich. Initially I wanted you to borrow from him ... That is a loan, not a handout from him but your mom refused. She said if you were to borrow from him, you may never be able to hold your own in his presence in future ... You don't have to say it but I know you have your pride. Uncle is really useless. I have made things difficult for you ... If your mom didn't mention it, I wouldn't even have thought of the repercussions if you were to take a loan from him. I'm a boorish man. But since your mom married me, I want the very best for her. I thought we could quietly tide through this, who knew we would be so unlucky? ... Yun Jin ... I wouldn't be calling you if I could help it. Your mom doesn't know about this conversation we're having. I'm just afraid if I'm found out, even Director Zhang won't look good ..."

Yun Jin was a ghost of her usual self when she replaced the receiver back on its stand. Her tears left a faint course on her face and she felt a numbing ache in her heart. So she was actually a useless daughter. Her mom was so sick yet she knew nothing about it.

Uncle was right, even if he had told her earlier, what could she have done about it? She had no money. Would she have asked Cheng Zheng for it? Even uncle knew she could not bring herself to broach this favour. Was her mother's life more important than her pride? Was she really such a selfish person?

Her mother and uncle didn't want her to lose face in front of Cheng Zheng but with matters coming to this, how could she ever maintain her pride in front of him ever again?

She thought her heart would split apart. There was no one she could blame. She suddenly felt that the entire thing was absurd; it was as if fate had already decreed it. Even if she wanted to avoid it, there was no escaping the black pit in front of her. She came to her senses and rushed to open her drawer and dugged out all her bank account statements which totalled fifteen thousand. This was her life savings. Then she took out her phone directory and dialled Yu Hua first.

Yu Hua hadn't graduated from her medical course but she willingly offered all she had, though it only came up to a few thousand. Yun Jin continued to ring up her university hostel mates, classmates and anyone she knew well enough. Everyone wasn't well off so the sum total of their contributions in addition to Yun Jin's savings was barely forty thousand. It was still a long way to the amount that uncle stated. Yun Jin clutched her thin bank booklet and felt defeated.

Her handphone rang, giving her a fright. It was Cheng Zheng. "Yun Jin, come down now. I'm in the lobby. Hurry!" He couldn't conceal the excitement in his tone.

Yun Jin dabbed at her face quickly and put away her bank book before hurrying to the lobby. She only just stepped out the elevator when she saw Cheng Zheng standing next to a huge vehicle and smiling radiantly.

"Yun Jin! This is the surprise my parents were planning for me. It's a limited edition dark blue Hummer H2. They just sent someone to deliver this. Can't believe my old man has such good taste."

Yun Jin stared dumbfounded at the flashy all-terrain vehicle in front of her and remained speechless for a long while. Cheng Zheng assumed she was just as stunned as he had been initially as he ushered her into the front passenger seat.

"I'll take you for a spin. Do you see this? It's even equipped to sense the weather! It also has a dual ..." Cheng Zheng droned on enthusiastically.

"How much does this car cost?" Yun Jin had to ask.

Cheng Zheng wrinkled his forehead deep in thought "Approximately fifty, sixty thousand? I'm not too sure of the exact cost. But who cares? Only 870 of this was manufactured world-wide. Even if you had money, you may not be able to get it."

"But if one doesn't even have money, then it will become even more unattainable. Fifty thousand ..." Yun Jin shook her head and laughed bitterly. It was merely a birthday gift, a huge toy to be precise yet it cost an astronomical sum that poor people's lives depended on.

"Don't think my dad is being generous. If he was really so willing to dole out that sum of money, the anti-corruption bureau would ring him up in the first

instance. This was definitely mom's idea." Cheng Zheng looked right at her as he spoke.

Yun Jin gently turned his head back front "Since your parents have given this to you, you must drive safely."

If she had intended to be honest with him, the words were swallowed now.

The next day, Cheng Zheng insisted on giving her a ride to her workplace. The flashy car garnered much attention the whole drive over.

In the afternoon before she knocked off, Yun Jin gave Shen Ju An a call. By evening, eighty thousand dollars were transferred into her account. She quickly transferred the one hundred and twenty thousand to her uncle's account.

Yun Jin was grateful that Shen Ju An had refrained from probing yet still helped her readily. She knew however he, of all people, was not the best choice. Besides his ties with Cheng Zheng's family, she was once romantically involved with him. Having any sort of financial entanglement with him was not ideal. If her hand wasn't forced, she would never have asked him for such an unpalatable favour.

Truth be told, no matter how she sliced it, she knew the person she should approach was Cheng Zheng because he was closest to her. If her mother had told her about her illness in the first instance, then she would have approached Cheng Zheng regardless of how she felt because nothing was more important than her mom. But because of the extreme measures her mother and uncle took in order to "spare her", she was now rendered unable to face Cheng Zheng.

Now, all she could think about was how she could help her uncle return the money quietly without incident. She wanted it to be off the records so that it would seem like it never happened. As for Ju An's money and kindness, she would repay it eventually. He was not her lover so she could be indebted to him because a simple debt can always be repaid easily.

That night she had to drag her weary body back home. She opened the door to find Cheng Zheng sitting on the couch. On hearing the door open, Cheng Zheng turned his head in her direction and watched her enter. However his eyes lacked its usual warmth and familiarity.

Yun Jin knew that the cat was out of the bag. Perhaps it had never been

realistic or even possible to hide it from him. Since she knew what was coming her way was only a matter of time, she decided to take the bull by the horns. She sat on the chair directly facing him and waited for him to begin.

“Earlier, your ex-hostel friend Xiao Wen called. She said something came up and the money that was supposed to be for your mom’s treatment cannot be loaned at the moment. So I called your mom and strangely your uncle thanked me. Not too long ago my mom told me that your uncle ... and wanted me to tell you that she will settle it. Su Yun Jin, answer me honestly, where did you get a hundred and ten thousand?”

Nothing in this world can remain hidden forever. Yun Jin gazed into his suspicious eyes and felt unsettled. She then decided to spill the whole truth, including Ju An’s involvement.

Instead of becoming furious, Cheng Zheng laughed bitterly “In such a situation, the first person you think of is Shen Ju An and not me. Tell me, aren’t I such a failure?”

Yun Jin felt powerless “I don’t know how to explain this ... You won’t understand.”

Cheng Zheng got to his feet “If I don’t understand, can’t you explain it slowly? Why do you always take me for a fool? ... Then what about Shen Ju An? Is he capable of comprehending?”

“Yes he is because he is just like me – he knows how scary it is to be poor. If you have no money, you have no dignity! We’re not like you – you’ve never known what it’s like to be poor. Cheng Zheng, I never thought of you as a fool. I only care about our relationship. My uncle relied on your family’s recommendation to get the job. Now that there’s a discrepancy in the accounts, I don’t want to use your family’s money to replace it. This will just make it awkward for everyone.”

“What rubbish. Then it’s not at all awkward for you to look up Shen Ju An?” Cheng Zheng was almost menacing.

“I can be indebted to Shen Ju An but I cannot owe you. It would change everything between us!” Yun Jin also rose from her seat and challenged his gaze.

Cheng Zheng grabbed a package that was lying on the couch with one hand and Yun Jin's wrist with the other.

"If you truly care about us, come with me." He said as he dragged her towards the main door.

In this manner, Yun Jin was forced onto the car. She sensed that they were heading in the direction of Zhang Yue's and Shen Ju An's residence but no matter what she said, Cheng Zheng squarely ignored her.

Soon they reached Shen Ju An's private residence in the hilltops. Cheng Zheng gave him a call before driving in to the carpark to await his appearance. Ten minutes passed before Shen Ju An emerged properly attired. He looked from Yun Jin to Cheng Zheng warily as though bracing himself for what was to come.

Before Shen Ju An could speak, Cheng Zheng had already stormed out of the car and ripped open the package. He took out wads of notes and flung them violently at Shen Ju An who wasn't able to avoid the onslaught in time. There was one stack which unravelled in mid-air and pink, crisp hundred-dollar bills rained down on Shen Ju An.

"Cheng Zheng!" Yun Jin yelled horrified but it did little to stop him.

Although Shen Ju An was subjected to such humiliation, his expression didn't falter as he allowed the notes to continue sliding down him as he remained rooted to the spot.

Cheng Zheng wasn't done. He spewed angrily "Here's all the money, it's not a single dollar short. I don't know what your intentions are; my cousin willingly married you so I won't say anything about that but will you please leave Yun Jin alone!"

Shen Ju An slowly reached up to a dollar bill that had landed on his shoulder and said slowly "I think you're mistaken."

"Mistaken?" Cheng Zheng sneered. "Don't think everyone's as foolish as Zheng Yue. We all know what your motives are but we choose not to say it. Do you actually think this money is yours? If you have it in you, don't use the Zhang family's money to act chivalrous."

"Shut up!" the same phrase was voiced simultaneously by two different

people. Zhang Yue was dressed in homely attire and her hair was all messy as she rushed out the house. On the other hand, Yun Jin was desperately trying to restrain Cheng Zheng.

Shen Ju An acted as if nothing had happened. He stooped over and started picking the scattered bills one by one and placed them neatly in the packet Cheng Zheng had been holding onto earlier. He never once looked at Cheng Zheng as he asked Yun Jin gently “Are you sure you don’t need this anymore?”

Yun Jin felt so badly towards Shen Ju An that she couldn’t look at him even as she apologized profusely. Zhang Yue walked up to Cheng Zheng and screamed in his face “What are you, a child? Do you ever think before you act?”

Cheng Zheng snarled “I’m afraid the one who doesn’t use her brain is you. You know it’s a ditch yet you still jump into it willingly.”

Zhang Yue was so upset that her face turned white. She pointed at Cheng Zheng and yelled “That’s MY business. Get out NOW!”

Cheng Zheng slapped her offending hand away “I can’t be bothered with you. Watch over your husband.”

“Cheng Zheng let’s go. Now.” Yun Jin tugged hard at Cheng Zheng but he didn’t budge. In a fit of rage, she dropped his hand angrily “You’re impossible. If you won’t leave, I will.” With that she stalked right out the private carpark.

At this, Cheng Zheng turned and ran after her but not before getting a last word in “Zhang Yue, you’ll regret it one day.”

Zhang Yue’s jaw tightened at their retreating backs “I’m so done with you Cheng Zheng.”

Shen Ju An smiled as he reached for her hand “Why be upset? Let’s go in.”

Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin drove back in silence. Only when he neared home did his temper finally give out. He attempted to talk to Yun Jin but she rebuffed him as she showered before sleeping. That night, she refused to look at him again.

Cheng Zheng lay next to her and shook her shoulder gently “Please, say something. Are you still mad at me?”

Yun Jin inched forward out of his range but Cheng Zheng merely followed suit.

He said grudgingly “I’m the one who did nothing wrong but you’re the one who’s angry. I haven’t even scolded you yet.”

Yun Jin was emotionally drained but she was so bothered by his chattering that she couldn’t ignore him any longer. She flipped over and sat up “Yes you did nothing wrong. It’s all my fault. Cheng Zheng why are we doing this? I’m so tired.”

Cheng Zheng panicked and he forcefully grabbed her in a hug “I won’t care for anything else again just as long as you’re with me. Yes I admit I hate Shen Ju An and I wanted so badly to humiliate him but Yun Jin can you put yourself in my shoes for a moment? Tomorrow’s my birthday. You asked me what gift I would like so here it is: Yun Jin I want you to promise me you’ll never leave me.”

Yun Jin shut her eyes and sighed inwardly.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 29

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 29

[July 29, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [24 Comments](#)



To borrow the words of Eminem – maybe that’s what happens when a tornado meets a volcano.

Chapter 29

Yun Jin recalled telling Shen Ju An confidently “We’re nothing alike.” It turned out that Ju An was more insightful after all. In that moment, he had merely looked at her and smiled. In retrospect, Yun Jin found it hilarious as well. She wasn’t as independent as she believed herself to be. She didn’t know if it was the various situations that called for it or because of her innate personality but she found herself extremely reliant on Cheng Zheng.

She wasn’t as adamant in protecting her pride and dignity as her younger self. Since she had no heart or courage to leave, then she’d rather not dwell on her disappointing change and remain by his side. By treating him a little better everyday, her conscience eased up. Day by day, Yun Jin was even more attentive

to Cheng Zheng's needs and more tolerant of his every mood. In return, Cheng Zheng was more in love with her than ever. If this was not bliss, then what was it?

After working in the company for nearly two years, Yun Jin's good performance in Customer Service caught the team leader's attention. Thus the scout, who was chiefly responsible for her recruitment, sent an employee from Human Resource to enquire if she was willing to transfer to Market Analysis where she would participate in planning marketing strategies for enterprises. Yun Jin did not need to think twice; although Market Analysis was not as easygoing as Customer Service, there was brighter job prospects. She really needed this opportunity.

Thereafter, her workload increased tremendously. There were meetings to prepare for, proposals to write, marketing research to conduct among other tasks. Working overtime became the norm and she even had to entertain potential clients. Yun Jin had to maintain the delicate balance between looking after Cheng Zheng meticulously and meeting the demands of her job. She shuttled between home and her workplace endlessly such that her walking pace became faster than the average person.

Cheng Zheng's career was as promising as had been expected – he was young, intelligent and had a good grasp on his field of work. He was also willing to put in the hours and effort so it came as no surprise to anyone that he rose up to the position of group leader quickly. Following the promotion, he became more swamped with work.

Working overtime was a given. Cheng Zheng also had to review every single blueprint that was drawn. As part of his training, he was offered many opportunities to go overseas for various projects. To everyone's surprise, this fine young man who appeared so carefree was actually easily homesick. Unless absolutely crucial, he was unwilling to travel. Even if he had to, he would return home at the first opportunity and never dallied in the foreign land.

As for social activities, he would reject all invitations. Since he was unable to get off work punctually, he cut down on his recreational time instead. He was never shy in proclaiming that he was going home to his lover. Everyone was curious to know the identity of his mysterious lover; how powerful was she that

Cheng Zheng, a fine member of the male gender, could be so devoted to her?

Yun Jin knew she ought to be grateful she had such an adoring partner but she couldn't help but feel more pressured instead. Since Cheng Zheng was so attached to her, naturally he expected the same affection in return. So whenever she neglected him, be it for work or any reasonable cause, he would sulk. She tried her best to please Cheng Zheng by spending all her spare time with him.

His love was so overwhelming that it became a burden she had to bear.

One autumn night, Yun Jin and two other colleagues finally wrapped up dinner with a client. Although her alcohol tolerance level had vastly improved from before due to the constant meetings such as this, she couldn't walk straight after the client had plied her with two cups.

"Yun Jin are you alright? Do you need a lift back?" her male colleague asked in concerned through his lowered window as he drove up to her.

"Thanks but it's fine!" she smiled and waved at her colleague. Cheng Zheng's jealousy made her instinctively avoid any situations in which he might get the wrong impression. Cheng Zheng was currently overseas on assignment and wasn't able to pick her up tonight. Thus, she was able to stay on for the full dinner course. If he were to see her in her current state, his ire would surely be raised.

On thinking of him, she fished out her handphone from her purse and had the shock of her life – she had multiple missed calls and unread texts from him:

Where are you now? Do you miss me? I wish you were with me.

I've completed my assignment early and am flying back soon. See you at home!

Why are you not picking up?

I'm home. I didn't bring my keys. Where are you?

PICK UP MY CALLS! Where on earth are you? I'm at the door.

Yun Jin if you don't appear in the next few seconds you're dead meat.

Don't frighten me, I'm getting worried.

...

The light evening breeze blew past her on this otherwise pleasant night but Yun Jin was in no mood to enjoy it. At the shock of Cheng Zheng's ill-timed arrival home, all the alcohol influence evaporated. She didn't dare read the remaining unread texts. She quickly hailed a cab and pleaded with the driver to use the fastest speed possible to send her back. As she panted on rushing out the elevator, she saw Cheng Zheng leaning on the metal grill. His coat was in his hand and his bags were in a heap at the side.

Yun Jin traversed the distance in a few big strides "I'm so so sorry; I didn't think you were coming back so soon. Have you been waiting long?"

He straightened his posture and ignored her. Upon getting a wiff of alcohol, his expression became even more icy. When she finally opened the main door, he deliberately stepped round her and headed in without a backward glance. Yun Jin stood at the entrance stunned but quickly recovered. She composed herself before picking up his luggage and following him in.

Cheng Zheng didn't switch on the lights. He sat down forcefully on the couch and said not a word. Having grown accustomed to his tyrannical behaviour whenever he threw a fit, Yun Jin was at a loss at his current atypical behaviour. She turned on the lights meekly and brought his luggage to the room before sitting down across him.

"Have you eaten? Are you hungry? Shall I whip up some food for you?"

"I rather starve to death." he gritted out.

Yun Jin forced on a smile before leaning forward and placing her hand over his "I'm sorry. My colleagues and I met with an old client today. We've had many interactions before so it wouldn't be too nice to reject his invitation to dinner. Besides, I didn't know you were coming back ahead of schedule ..."

"Yeah. When you know I'll be back, you'll be home waiting for me. If not, you would be having a roaring good time outside. Is this how you patronize me? Su Yun Jin, sometimes I realise I don't know you at all." Cheng Zheng retracted his hand from her clasp.

Yun Jin inhaled sharply as she slowly brought her hand back to her side "Cheng

Zheng please be reasonable. I was really only doing this because my work demands it. It was way too noisy tonight so I didn't hear the phone ringing in my bag. I didn't think you would forget your keys either. I've already apologised, what more do you want?"

"Don't make out your stupid job to be so important! It's just drinking with dirty old men isn't it? I've waited at the door for you for three hours. *THREE HOURS*. To think I rushed home the moment I finished my duties there. Since disembarking from the plane, I've not even had a drop of water."

"I know you're angry but you have your career and I have mine. I've never stopped you from entertaining clients so shouldn't you spare a thought for me as well?"

"I don't know how to see things from your perspective. I'm not mature enough and I'm no Shen Ju An. I'm not as warm and understanding as he is. I don't even know who is in your heart and honestly I don't care anymore."

Yun Jin couldn't hold it in any longer. She wanted so badly to slap him but her rational side reminded her that anger would not lead anywhere. Thus she decided not to argue with him any further. She would give him space to cool down, after all why add fuel to fire? She tried hard to temp down her emotions as she rose and said "I'll go get you some water."

Cheng Zheng watched her go coldly. When she extended the cup of water to him he struck it "Su Yun Jin, are you aware that I hate it whenever you're like this? You keep everything inside and don't voice your thoughts. Are you even capable of anger? Of feelings? You always have this wronged look, like you have to accommodate me. I want a human lover, one that has emotions and not an all-serving robot who sleeps with me."

Yun Jin's outstretched hand was thrown to a side viciously and half of the water spilled out. She steadied herself before throwing the remaining water in Cheng Zheng's face. She dashed the empty glass on the floor where it smashed to smithereens loudly.

Yun Jin's voice was unsteady "I think we're both satisfied at how things turned out."

The water coursed down Cheng Zheng's face but he made no move to wipe it

dry. He pointed a solitary finger at the door “Leave. I don’t want to see you.”

Without a moment’s hesitation, Yun Jin got to her feet but Cheng Zheng was faster. He jumped up and used his brute strength to pin her tightly onto the couch. Yun Jin was in great pain and she glared hatefully at him. In the midst of their struggling, both fell off the couch onto the floor. Cheng Zheng’s body was now under hers so before he could react, she struggled up to get away from him. Alas, he was agile and with lightning speed, he grabbed at her ponytail to stop her from escaping.

Yun Jin was in so much pain that tears were forming. She couldn’t hold it in as she whirled around and slapped him. Her sharp nails drew fresh blood on Cheng Zheng’s neck. Just like a leopard that smelt a whiff of blood, Cheng Zheng lost his senses and shoved her on the floor with renewed rigour before forcefully ripping off her clothes and his own.

Yun Jin knew what he wanted but under such circumstances, they would be no different from animals so she valiantly tried to fight him off even though she was no match for him. She was the injured, dying prey to his vicious predator. In no time, Cheng Zheng established his victory. Yun Jin felt defeated and she surrendered, allowing him to do as he wanted with her.

How could two lovers be so close physically yet so distant emotionally? The moment Cheng Zheng got what he wanted, he felt an acute sense of loss. He pressed his forehead gently against hers and mumbled “Is it I who have hurt you or you who have hurt me? What must I do to have you, all of you?”

Yun Jin felt dead inside “Let it go Cheng Zheng. Let’s go our separate ways. We’ll both be happier.”

Cheng Zheng shook his head slowly but resolutely “No. I will never let go. Even if our love drags us down to hell, I still want to be with you.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 30

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 30

[July 30, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [20 Comments](#)



Old friends are back in town! We kicked off the novel in their school setting which had many adorable moments. Will seeing their friends bring back sweet memories and push them back to happiness?

On another note, school is hectic so unfortunately, I won't be able to post daily anymore. I know, I'm just as disappointed as you are believe you me. I will try my best to churn out posts regularly (promise!) so do check back frequently!

Chapter 30

Some things when broken can never be restored to its original form no matter how determined the mender. As for Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin, neither could bear to forsake their past together so they stuck doggedly to the frail semblance of a

relationship.

Neither brought up that night ever again. Both wanted the relationship to last in the long run but they didn't know how to return to their glory days. They treaded carefully around the other – one misinterpreted word, one wrong look could hurt. As time passed, they conversed less and less and each tended to their own wounds silently.

The small apartment, which was once their cosy haven, was now a stifling enclave to them. Cheng Zheng's overtime shifts increased steadily and he would often return late in the night reeking of cigarettes and alcohol. Similarly, Yun Jin grew more reticent. She stuck to her old routine of playing Go on her computer after work though it ought to be noted that her standard never improved. When she had the time, she would still prepare dinner for two though she no longer asked if he was coming home to eat.

One day, Cheng Zheng was surprisingly punctual home. When he entered, she was busy in the kitchen. She was so absorbed in slicing the vegetables that she was completely unaware that he had returned. Cheng Zheng coughed lightly to get her attention. She stared at him dazed as the sharp chopping knife hung in mid-air which caused a chill to run down his spine.

"You're back. Dinner will be ready soon." She smiled at him before resuming the task at hand.

Cheng Zheng gingerly removed the knife from her grasp "There's no need to prepare dinner tonight. Zhou Zi Yi is here on assignment so he's organising a meet-up with all us old classmates. Turns out quite a number of us are here. Do you remember your table-mate Song Ming? The short bespectacled boy? He's now a technician with XX airline. Meng Xue and Zhou Jing are in Shenzhen and would make their way over tonight."

Having said his piece, he walked to the living room. When he didn't get any sort of acknowledgement from her, he added "Let's go together. I hear Mo Yu Hua will be there as well."

In the VIP lounge of Xing Ju night club, the dim disco lights, deafening music and sound of glasses clinking intermixed with rowdy merriment contributed to the fantastic atmosphere. What was originally intended to be a small-scale

gathering amongst old friends had a turn-out of over ten people which included students from neighbouring classes.

It had been six, seven years since their graduation. The awkward teenagers had long grown up. Some had not seen each other since graduating and upon noting how much they've changed ever since, would sigh that time had been too fleeting.

Zhou Jing was married and currently working as a businesslady. She had a dignified air; there was no longer any trace of the country girl. Meng Xue was now an air stewardess with Shen Zhen airlines and was as demure as ever. In fact, she looked every bit the successful lady. Song Ming underwent the greatest transformation. The small boy who used to wear thick glasses was now broad shouldered. Although he couldn't be said to be handsome but he carried himself well and was gentlemanly.

Only Zhou Zi Yi remained the same carefree, impish ruffian as before. Luckily for him, he was still handsome and suave. Apparently, after he graduated from university, he followed in his father's footsteps and went into the property marketing, He even had a fiancée who was compatible in both looks and social standing. Rumour was that he intended to get married the moment the girl returned from her overseas studies.

Mo Yu Hua had long shed her chubby figure from her younger days though she still looked as ordinary as ever. But now, she had a scholarly disposition.

That night, the two who received the most attention was undeniably Cheng Zheng and Yun Jin. Everyone wanted to toast their model couple who finally got together despite all the past misunderstandings.

Cheng Zheng was in a good mood; he did not decline a single toast and downed every cup of alcohol enthusiastically, including Yun Jin's share. After several rounds, Cheng Zheng was tipsy despite his high alcohol threshold.

Since Yun Jin and Mo Yu Hua had not met in a long while, the two retreated to a corner to converse privately so ironically Meng Xue was the one who could not bear to see Cheng Zheng get further drunk; she beseeched Zhou Zi Yi to intervene and drink on Cheng Zheng's behalf.

Zhou Zi Yi teased "This is strange. The official girlfriend has no reaction so why

are you feeling bad?”

Meng Xue slammed her cup onto the table “Because I’ve been friends with Cheng Zheng and we even ran around butt naked as kids! So what? If you dare, drink up!”

Zhou Zi Yi smiled. He was not a foolish man and he wisely avoided engaging in direct conflict with Meng Xue.

In Yun Jin’s corner, Mo Yu Hua observed the events unfold and asked “What’s wrong? Something doesn’t seem right between you and your man.”

Yun Jin smiled bitterly “It’s not a simple issue. We’ve been like this for a long time now.”

“Why put yourself through such misery? How Cheng Zheng treats you, everyone knows. To have such a man love you so devotedly is really a blessing so why be piqued over a moment’s rashness? If you lose him, you’ll regret it.”

“How could I not know he’s wonderful? I want to be nice to him too but how is it that two people who want nothing but the best for each other could feel so weary together? Yu Hua, do you believe in affinity?”

“I do. But I also believe in working hard to keep the relationship going. Oh look!” she motioned at Yun Jin.

Cheng Zheng was very drunk and in his stupor, was resting his head on Meng Xue’s shoulder. Meng Xue looked uncomfortable as she pushed him off. He wobbled for a moment before coming to rest on her again. The second time, she didn’t try to maintain their distance and her eyes held regret as she looked at him tenderly.

“What are our two beauties doing whispering in the corner?” Zhou Zi Yi walked over with a cup of alcohol in hand.

“Yu Hua, it’s been a while. You’re much prettier.” He didn’t seem to recall the awkward incident of yesteryear.

“Have I? I think it’s you that have become more skilled at paying compliments.” Yu Hua joked in return.

Yun Jin rose “Both of you have a chat. I’ll go check on Cheng Zheng.”

She walked over and smiled politely at Meng Xue who returned the smile though it contained a trace of provocation “You’ve finally come to tend to your boyfriend.”

Yun Jin acted as if she had not heard her as she squatted before Cheng Zheng and tapped his face lightly “Cheng Zheng, wake up, we should make a move.”

Cheng Zheng made no reaction so she tried to support him to his feet. When she staggered under his weight, Song Ming quickly rushed to her aid by supporting Cheng Zheng on his other end.

“Thank you. Could I trouble you to assist me in carrying him out?” Yun Jin’s request was directed at Song Ming before she turned to Meng Xue “Thank you for your shoulder. No wonder Cheng Zheng always mentions that you’re like a brother to him.”

Meng Xue laughed bitterly and rose to her feet as well. After Yun Jin said her farewells to the others, she and Song Ming headed for the exit with Meng Xue trailing worriedly behind them. Undoubtedly, there would be no driving that night. Yun Jin went to the kerb and was about to hail a taxi when Cheng Zheng came to somewhat as he massaged his temples and asked what he was doing there.

“You’ve had too much to drink. We’re going home.” Yun Jin said softly.

Cheng Zheng looked at the three of them blearily before taking his arm out of her grip “You go back first. I’m not drunk, I can still continue drinking.”

His withdrawal was too abrupt that he stumbled but Meng Xue was quick to step forward and catch him. He finally caught his balance by leaning on her.

Yun Jin grabbed his hand firmly “Cheng Zheng, stop this. Let’s go.” Her voice betrayed her desperation.

Cheng Zheng swung her hand off once again as he staggered and slung his arm over Meng Xue’s shoulder “I told you not to restrict me. Go if you wish.”

There was no turning back now and even Song Ming felt awkward being there.

Yun Jin stared at him quietly before turning calmly to Song Ming and Meng Xue “Since it’s like this, I’ll be heading back first. Please take good care of him and

don't let him drink too much. Don't let him drive as well." She took out a notebook from her handbag and scribbled hurriedly "This is our address please help get him into a cab when the gathering ends. After he's on it, give me a call. Thank you so much."

As soon as Yun Jin's cab rounded the bend and was no longer in sight, Cheng Zheng straightened slowly. The dazed look in his eyes had vanished, leaving palpable disappointment. He realised that he was still in close physical contact with Meng Xue so he quickly widened a gap between them and said simply "Sorry about that." before heading back to the party.

"Cheng Zheng!" Meng Xue called out from behind him. He turned back in bewilderment and was unprepared for the slap she was about to deliver. Luckily, his reflexes were as quick as ever as he parried her attempt and yelled "Are you drunk?"

Only then did he notice Meng Xue's tears. He grew up with Meng Xue and in his heart, she would forever be the innocent little playmate of his. This was the first time he had seen her cry.

Meng Xue lifted her face bravely as tears streamed down "Take this slap as my returning all the feelings I had for you. You don't have to love me but you shouldn't hurt me like this. You've known that I have loved you all along. How can you treat me feelings as a tool for the games you two play? You're so cruel."

Cheng Zheng loosened his grip on her and was utterly helpless "Maybe you're right. If slapping me would make you feel better than go ahead."

Meng Xue dried her tears and smiled coldly "But now I don't feel like it anymore because I've discovered that you're more pathetic than me. You wanted to use me to spite that Su Yun Jin but it's a pity she doesn't even care. It's been so many years now. You've loved someone whose feelings for you aren't clear. You thought you're victorious because she's by your side but you're wrong."

He covered his ears as though doing so would block out the unsatisfactory words. After a pause, he said to Song Ming "Please take care of her." before turning and taking his leave.

It was very late by the time he reached home but the table lamp was still on.

He was comforted to find Yun Jin still awake. She had not changed out of her clothes and was watching the telly calmly. Seeing that he had returned, she turned her eyes away from the screen.

“You’re back.” She put down the remote control in her hands and said the familiar refrain.

“You ... have something to tell me?” Cheng Zheng jammed his hands in his pocket.

Yun Jin raised her face and studied him carefully “I just want to say, you’re very immature Cheng Zheng.”

Cheng Zheng sat on the sofa and buried his face in his knees “Yes I’m immature. I wrongly assumed that in doing so, I would provoke you into action and know definitively that you can be jealous over me, that you can be angry at me. This would prove to me that you actually care for me.”

Yun Jin’s face was void of emotion.

Cheng Zheng exhaled slowly “It’s been so many years and you still don’t love me. That’s why you are always so calm.”

The one thing he feared the most was ironically initiated by him. It was a surreal sensation, like he was the metaphorical ash being released in the wind.

“Yun Jin, let’s break up.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 31

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 31

[August 1, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [14 Comments](#)



Never wonder what I'll feel as living shuffles by
You don't have to ask me and I need not reply
Every moment of my life from now until I die
I will think or dream of you and fail to understand
How a perfect love can be confounded out of hand

– Written In The Stars, Elton John

Chapter 31

Let's break up Yun Jin ...

Yun Jin woke up with a start to find herself alone in the big room. The voice from her nightmare seemed to reverberate throughout the empty room.

She sat up in bed and glanced at the alarm clock – it was already five in the morning. She didn't feel sleepy anymore so she poured herself some water and seated herself in front of her make-up counter.

What should a twenty-seven year old female be like? Should they be like roses – with petals in full glory only to wither in the next instant? Had she reached her peak? Yun Jin stroked her face gently. It had been over three years. To be exact, it had been forty-one months. When was the last time she thought of him, of that familiar voice?

She pulled open her drawer and rummaged about till she found the sole remaining aquamarine earring. She clutched it tightly in her hand; its coolness stung her. The heartfelt words he spoke when he was putting them on her echoed in her ears. Unfortunately, she ultimately lost one of them just as she and Cheng Zheng had lost each other.

Cheng Zheng, Cheng Zheng ... The person who used to lie so close to her could also be lost to the crowds. She no longer remembered the details of the fateful night. Afterall, a person's memory is programmed to protect herself. All she knew was the moment she stepped out of his apartment, the two of them never met again. How big was the city that the both of them never met again? The Heavens could allow lovers to reunite in any corner of the Earth but never once orchestrated a meeting between them in these long four years; could it be that it was punishing them for not having loved deeply enough?

What would be considered to have loved deeply? In the initial two months post-breakup, his shadow lingered everywhere. In every street, every corner, she would see what appeared to be a familiar silhouette. Every night, in both dreams and nightmares, he was there. But over time, it occurred less frequently. Time was a potent entity – it really did make everything better. The good and bad times had all become blurry memories of the past. Eventually, she no longer

dreamed of him.

Maybe Cheng Zheng was right, she was a cold unfeeling person. In this regard, she was lucky because this personality helped her feel less heartbroken. There was once Yu Hua said although Yun Jin never did find out if it was intentional or not “From a medical perspective, losing the sense of pain is abnormal and rather dangerous. If one doesn’t know the sensation of pain, then she would not be aware of how badly she has been hurt.”

Sometimes, she was envious of the lead actors in drama serials. When they fell out of love and decide to abandon everything to roam the Earth, they would return years later to find everything had changed. But she was no female lead. In reality, to travel overseas, one needed to have some semblance of wealth. People as ordinary as her could only be contented with finding their bearings again in their original beat-down spot after wallowing in the mud of self-pity. After wiping all traces of dirt from their face, they could only limp forward with their injuries intact. Since she didn’t die then, she had to live well. She had to eat, had to pay for housing, had to support her family ... She did not have the luxury of floundering in her sorrow till she felt confident enough to face the world again. Time plodded on steadily and so should she.

In that few years, the company sat up and started to pay attention to the Su Yun Jin from the Marketing department. The girl who looked timid and meek, who had very little to say and who never commented on matters that didn’t concern her, turned out to be surprisingly capable. Whatever task she was assigned, she could be trusted to execute it to her best ability. If you gave her half a month to complete an assignment, she would work at it meticulously and produce an almost flawless proposal. If the same assignment had a half-day deadline, she would still finish it on schedule no matter what. While it wouldn’t be as optimal a result, one wouldn’t be able to pick up any faults on general inspection. That was the standard of her efficiency.

At the bar, there were always some nasty male or two who liked to bully young girls by placing a glass of strong liquor in front of them and only relent when they whined flirtatiously and begged off. She never gave them the satisfaction and instead would get to her feet and drink every last drop. No matter how drunk she was, she would grit her teeth and force herself onward home where she

would comfortably vomit in private. There were few girls like her, quiet and frail on the outside but stubborn to the core.

With her dedication to her job and her strong business acuity, it was no surprise to anyone that she rose steadily through the ranks in the four years. From a small time marketing planning employee to division vice-leader to assistant marketing manager to deputy director of marketing to finally her role of director today. Although she was young and single, no one doubted her capabilities or diligence.

When she turned twenty-five, she finally scrimped enough to buy her own apartment in this city where property prices were expensive. When she became twenty-seven, she bought her own Toyota. By then, her uncle had already left the clothing factory. With a sum of money that Yun Jin provided him, he was able to set up a small hotel in the county with a business partner. To quickly get back in the black, he worked extremely hard in the early days. Now, he enjoyed the fruits of his earlier labour and lived a considerably stable life with her mother.

Her step-sister was now in university with Yun Jin's full financial support. Everything was falling into place. For someone as ordinary as her to hold such a lofty position at work, she was satisfied. Yun Jin wasn't a greedy person; she treasured everything she possessed but somehow she still felt empty inside. She may not have realized it or she may have been actively denying it but she had a Cheng Zheng-sized hole in her heart. She would even wake up in the middle of the night feeling lost and alone. Subconsciously, she knew she would never be whole again.

When she reported for work one morning, she found plenty of work piled high on her desk. There was never an idle moment for her to grieve over what she had lost and it was just as well. After office hours had begun for half-an-hour, her department's newest research recruit Lu Lu dashed into office and bumped into Yun Jin who was getting some water. Yun Jin cast a pointed look at her but made no comment. Lu Lu was sheepish and quickly headed for her desk.

Yun Jin returned to her office. She could see Lu Lu through the glass; a young enthusiastic girl who had only graduated from university a year earlier. She probably had partied too much the night before or overslept. This was the second time in the month she was late. Yun Jin wasn't a strict supervisor; she

rarely reprimanded her subordinates or interfered in their affairs. Most of the time, she kept her cool demeanour though she was keenly aware of the diligent, lazy or opportunistic ones and kept a mental record of their individual strengths and flaws. She had the authority to reward and punish her underlings and she was set on going about it fairly.

As for this strange new recruit Lu Lu, she was willing to extend more grace towards her as long as her work did not suffer. The occasional mistakes she was able to let slide because in truth, she was envious of Lu Lu's carefree youth. She had been there in her life before but what was the Su Yun Jin like back then? She had been sensitive, difficult to read, withdrawn ... She herself couldn't comprehend why she was so difficult to get along with back then. Since that relationship hadn't managed to build-up her low self-esteem, she was doomed to lose it anyway.

Could it be that the older one became, the more troubling things one would encounter? Yun Jin used her fingertips to massage her temples. Perhaps the recurring nightmare made her more susceptible to headaches. She collected herself and dived into work with renewed vigour.

In the evening, after work had just ended for the day, she had just hung up a call with the sales director Xu Zhi Heng when Lu Lu knocked on her day before bounding in happily "Boss, a few of us have decided to go out for happy hour tonight and I've been sent as a representative to invite you along. Do join us!"

"No, it's fine. Y'all have fun!" Yun Jin smiled before poring over her documents again.

After some time had passed, she realised something was amiss. She looked up to see Lu Lu standing in the same spot with a stern expression. Yun Jin couldn't help but feel amused "Is there anything else?"

"Sister Su, do you have to work overtime tonight? Or do you have a date planned? Or are you feeling unwell? If it's none of the above, why do you not want to join us? Do you know that a lady's biggest enemy is time as it forces her to lose her youthfulness bit by bit ..."

"Stop!" Yun Jin interrupted her rambling. "Tell me the venue." She pretended not to see Lu Lu giving the victory sign to the other colleagues who did a bad job

of concealing their presence outside. Maybe, she really did need to unwind.

“It’s at ‘Left Bank’. We’ll dine on the second floor, sing karaoke on the third and go for spa on the fourth. Wait for me Sister Su! I’ll take your car.” Lu Lu bopped out frantically and failed to notice Yun Jin’s hesitant steps.

Left Bank ... Yun Jin was not unfamiliar with the place. All these years, she had grown out of her introverted self that she was with Cheng Zheng. After work, she would sometimes meet-up with old classmates and friends in various entertainment hang-outs in the city. Left Bank was a relatively new establishment. It had a stylish architecture and catered to the middle and upper class and was thus popular among the richer white-collared workers. More importantly however, it was a business under Zhang Yue.

After splitting with Cheng Zheng, Yun Jin and Zhang Yue did not keep in contact although Shen Ju An was still her friend. She was well aware of the sort of person Ju An was – loving him would hurt one easily. But in keeping a distance, he was a perfect comrade whom one could confide in. Ju An never brought up Cheng Zheng in their conversations and Yun Jin never pried into the stormy relationship he had with Zhang Yue.

Having finished dinner, the whole gang headed for the karaoke suite to have a roaring good time. Although Yun Jin took the initiative to be a little more easygoing after office hours, she didn’t want to lose her professional image in front of her subordinates so she chose to play the role of an audience. However, Lu Lu wasn’t about to let her off so easily and she dragged her to the pub on the fourth floor and insisted on getting high together.

The young lass had only downed a few cups but her face was already flushed. Ironically, her eyes were brighter than it ever was in office as she used her radar to scan the crowds for handsome men. Suddenly, she shook Yun Jin enthusiastically “Sister Su! Look, there’s a fine specimen there!!”

Yun Jin looked in the direction she was gesturing at but the crowds were a mess and she couldn’t differentiate the “fine specimen” from “trash” and so she replied disinterestedly “Not another one of your F4 types?”

Lu Lu herself couldn’t spot the guy again in the ever-shifting mass of people and she exclaimed in frustration “It was a *really* handsome guy! He had style and

charisma. But where did he disappear to?”

Yun Jin laughed inwardly; the *he* she was referring to was some distance away, how could she tell if he had charisma?

Lu Lu sensed that Yun Jin was disinterested and said “Sister Su, you’re only 27 and you’re already uninterested in handsome guys. This is not a good sign! Women cannot do without the sizzle of romance. Look at your eyebags, there’s definite some yin-yang imbalance.”

“What nonsense! I didn’t have a good sleep last night.” Yun Jin retorted.

Lu Lu laughed in response “Poor sleep ... was it because you were thinking of someone?”

The words had just escaped her lips when her sharp eyes detected Yun Jin’s expression stiffen. Because Yun Jin was such an approachable superior, she had neglected propriety in a moment’s carelessness. She recalled nervously that her boss hated discussing personal matters. She stuck at her tongue at her own misstep and tried to reroute the conversation.

What was more surprising was after Yun Jin remained silent for a bit, she suddenly nodded “You’re right.”

Lu Lu was stunned; she felt like she had just stumbled upon the latest gossip treasure mine. She couldn’t let such a golden opportunity slip her by so she grabbed Yun Jin’s sleeves and asked excitedly “Sister Su, who did you think of? Do tell!”

“My ex-boyfriend.” Yun Jin replied sadly.

Lu Lu was delighted at this response “So you had a boyfriend previously? I knew it. Someone as pretty as you couldn’t possibly not have been in a relationship. Ex-boyfriend meaning you guys broke up? Why did you break up? You’re so perfect; it must have been because he had many flaws so you chose to leave him right?”

“No, he didn’t have any shortcomings. On the contrary, he’s the most outstanding man I have ever come across. I’m sure I’ll never find another man who loves me as much as he did. I simply didn’t have the fortune of sharing a future with him.” Yun Jin was equally shocked to find herself readily spilling out

her secrets to this young girl. Perhaps last night's nightmare that woke her from her sleep brought up many repressed memories for which she needed a listening ear.

"Then you must really miss him." Lu Lu didn't forget to empathize even as she listened attentively.

Yun Jin shook her head "To be honest, in all these years, I rarely thought of him. Funny enough, this city is not big yet I've never bumped into him again."

"*HE'S IN G-CITY?!*" Lu Lu's eyes bulged and nearly fell out of their sockets. "Sister Su, if you were to meet him again, what would you do? Would you cry? Would you pretend that his presence doesn't affect you and wave casually at him?"

"If I meet him, my only hope is ... that he's not living blissfully, at least not more happily than I am. Isn't that very selfish of me?" Yun Jin swirled the alcohol in her glass.

How could Lu Lu understand? She asked timidly "But why?"

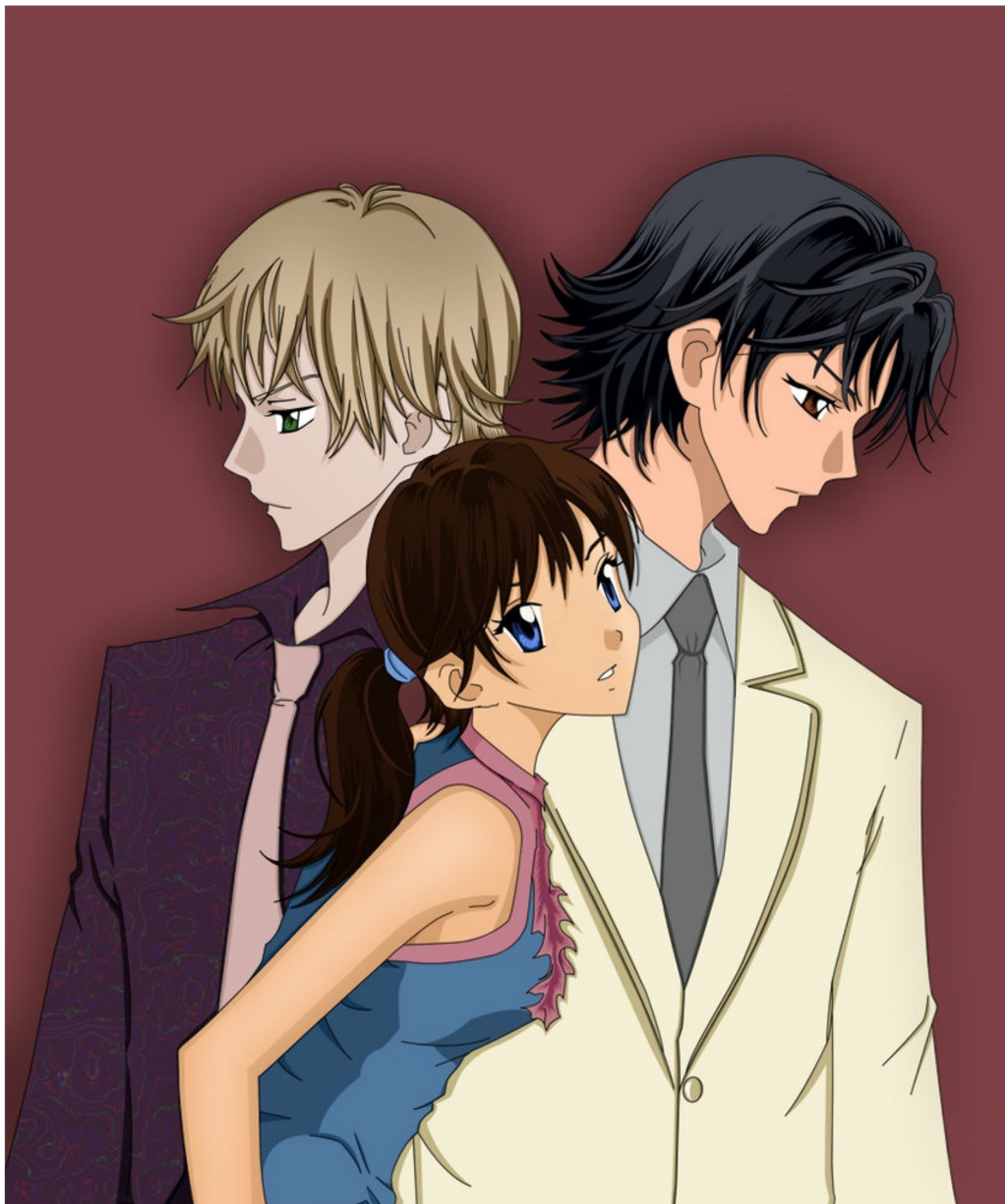
Yun Jin squeezed her eyes shut "Because my heart hasn't been able to let him go. Sometimes, I hate him ... But most of the time, I find I still love him."

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 32

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 32

[August 3, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [18 Comments](#)



It's been many years and the Yun Jin we were introduced to at the start of the novel has changed. But is it for the better?

Chapter 32

"Sister Su, I don't understand. If you can't forget him, why don't you go find him? No matter the cause of the separation, if two people are deeply in love, and living in the same city, they can surely find their way back to each other." Yun Jin's inaction baffled Lu Lu.

Yun Jin replied "In the initial two years, I refused to look for him because I couldn't forget how he hurt me. I thought so what if we got together again? No one forced us to part; we did so because we didn't know how to love each other. My breaking up with him was no mistake or coincidence; it was only a matter of time. Later on, I gained insight into many matters but I no longer dared to look for him because I feared that he already found someone else. I was afraid that he found happiness after leaving me. The person who was once a huge part of me and was always within my vision now leads a separate life. Even thinking of it makes me sad ... In that case, it's better that we don't meet. At least, I can lie to myself. Anyway I'm already used to living alone. Even without him, I have and will survive."

"But, I still believe that two people in love should overcome all ends and stick with each other no matter what." The young, naive girl who had never been in love was adamant.

"You're probably right. I'm not a good role model. I shouldn't affect your outlook on romance." Yun Jin said self-mockingly.

As they were speaking, one of their colleagues, Xiao Mo, who had been singing on the third floor approached them "Manager Su, so this is where you are! It was so hard to find you. Someone's looking for you."

Yun Jin was puzzled. Following closely behind Xiao Mo was a young lady she had never met.

"Excuse me, may I know which one of you is Ms Su?" the young lady asked as she approached them. On closer inspection, she was at least over thirty but her

make-up was nicely done and her attire was classy. Even her voice was sweet.

“That would be me. And you are ...” Her words had just escaped her lips when Lu Lu’s remaining half-shot of Jack Daniels on the bar counter was splashed onto her face. Lu Lu screamed in horror and the other patrons came crowding around.

Yun Jin wiped away the alcohol that was dripping near her eyes before taking a good look at the hand that was gripping fiercely onto the glass, a hand that was immaculately painted in red nail polish. She was fairly certain of the woman’s identity now.

“My husband’s family name is Xu so you may call me Mrs Xu. It’s nice to meet you Ms Su.” The lady’s tone was gentle, as though she was making an ordinary introduction.

At this, Lu Lu and Xiao Mo finally recovered from their shock and hurriedly passed wads of napkins to Yun Jin who slowly wiped off the excess alcohol on her face and hair as she tried to compose herself. This was an all too familiar scene; she too had once splashed cold water in Cheng Zheng’s face. This must surely be retribution.

“Mrs Xu’s greeting sure is unique.”

The lady who proclaimed herself as Mrs Xu smiled demurely as she sized Yun Jin up. Then she spoke harshly “You don’t look bad, certainly not a slut. Xu Zhi Heng’s taste has improved. I never understood it though, why are good-looking Mainland women like yourself okay with being a kept woman?”

The alcohol was finally cleaned off and Yun Jin deftly swept aside a clump of hair that was plastered to her forehead. She smiled as she retorted “I am equally puzzled; why do you Taiwanese become abandoned wives when you hit middle-age?”

“You’re too much!” the smile vanished from Mrs Xu’s face as her beautiful hand came swinging round again.

Yun Jin was quick to grab the hand that was on the offensive as her tone became icy “Mrs Xu, I was in the wrong so I’ll accept the alcohol you splashed at me. But sorry, I’m not about to let you slap me in public. If I were you, I wouldn’t

do that either because you'll soon realise that even if it makes you feel better, it would make your situation worse off."

The strength in Mrs Xu's arm drained as her hand dropped to her side. She gritted out "To me, there can be nothing worse than my husband having an affair."

"If you are angry, you should take it out on Xu Zhi Heng before cutting ties with him cleanly because he's the one who has done you wrong. If you wish to win him back, then you should spend more time trying to understand him instead of being indifferent to him all year long. Even if I weren't in the picture, there would be someone else."

"I don't know of anyone else but I know there's you. Su Yun Jin, leave him alone!"

When a woman is at her wit's end, even the most extensive make-up cannot disguise her weariness.

Yun Jin felt her heart constrict in her chest; she knew this day would come sooner or later. Ending the affair was inevitable but she never expected to be humiliated like this. But what was the difference really? She still had to end it.

"I promise you if he leaves me of his own volition, I won't cling onto him."

Mrs Xu paused. She had expected to fight it out so she was taken aback that her opponent was so quick to surrender. But that was for the best as she was not a confrontational woman herself.

"Okay. You better remember what you've said today." Before her tears could fall, she turned and made her exit.

"Hey! Who do you think you are? Thinking of leaving after causing such a scene?" Lu Lu felt injustice for Yun Jin and was about to prevent Mrs Xu from walking.

Yun Jin grabbed Lu Lu "No matter what, she's Director Xu's wife. Offending her wouldn't do you any good. Let's go. Isn't there enough people gawking at us?"

She quickly fled the scene with Lu Lu close behind and pretended not to see the nosey bystanders.

When they boarded her car, Lu Lu asked her curiously “Sister Su, that woman just slandered you. Are you going to let the matter rest like that?”

“She wasn’t slandering me ... I should be glad she didn’t throw acid at my face.” Yun Jin guided her steering wheel and spoke calmly as though she was referring to someone else instead of herself.

Lu Lu was flabbergasted and needed time to digest her words “Do you ... mean to say that the rumours of you and Director Xu are true?”

Yun Jin didn’t reply. Lu Lu finally made sense of it all; she had only been with the company for less than a year but she had already heard the rumours of sales director Xu Zhi Heng and marketing manager Su Yun Jin. However, Director Xu and sister Su always maintained a professional relationship and never revealed any hint of an illicit relationship. She couldn’t accept that a mature and charming man like Director Xu and the sister Su that she admired were adulterers.

“But Sister Su, you claimed you couldn’t let go of the person from before. Do you also love Director Xu?” Lu Lu felt her idealistic notion of romance was crumbling all around her.

“Although I can’t forget him, it doesn’t mean I still want to be with him. As for Xu Zhi Heng, I used to need him and he, me. That was all.” Yun Jin was expressionless.

“But ...”

“There are no buts. Don’t ask anymore; knowing too much won’t do you any good. We’re at your place already. Be safe.” Yun Jin pulled to a stop and let Lu Lu alight before heading home.

She couldn’t tell if she was being overly suspicious, but she noticed a silver-grey Volvo with an unfamiliar licence plate had been tailing her ever since she left Left Bank. Even when she turned out from Lu Lu’s place, the car continued to keep up with her though it never got too close. Yun Jin tried to speed up but she was unable to shake the stalker. She finally reached her condominium and passed the security guards. Only then did the car completely disappear from her rearview mirror. Her uneasiness dissipated and she started to chide herself for being so jumpy.

The distance from the carpark to the elevator was not a long one. Furthermore it was well-lit. However, her solitary footsteps echoed eerily in the deserted carpark, causing her pulse to quicken so she walked at a faster pace.

She was about to reach the lift landing when a shadowy figure sprang out from a corner and grabbed her. Her heart was already in overdrive and at this abrupt and unexpected situation, she screamed.

“What’s wrong Yun Jin?” On hearing the familiar voice, she calmed down and breathed deeply. “Zhi Heng. What are you doing? You scared me.”

Xu Zhi Heng positioned himself in front of the carpark elevators and said “I’ve been waiting a long time for you. Is your handphone battery flat? ... She went to find you didn’t she?”

“That’s correct.” Yun Jin unlocked her purse and took out her phone.

“I’m sorry Yun Jin. We had a quarrel. I don’t know how she managed to do it but she found your department’s number and the receptionist informed her that the lot of you went to Left Bank. She was even given the number of one of your colleagues. Did she hurt you?” Xu Zhi Heng asked with genuine concern as he tenderly smoothened her hair.

Yun Jin brought his hand away “She can’t hurt me. Zhi Heng, it’s we who have hurt her.”

Xu Zhi Heng appeared troubled “Yun Jin, please don’t torture me with such an expression. Remember what I told you previously? All you have to do is say the word and I will leave her.”

“You don’t have to do that. There was a time when we both needed each other and we were both attracted to each other and I’m really grateful that you stuck by me all this while. You’ve given me comfort and happiness, this I will never forget. But now your wife’s back and she clearly still loves you very much. You don’t have to give up on your marriage for my sake.”

“But have you ever asked me who it is I loved?” It was hard to believe that the Xu Zhi Heng who was always composed and decisive would ever look so conflicted.

“Didn’t we make it clear right from the start? We would get together and

separate without fuss.” Yun Jin said gently.

“And what if I say no?” He appeared to imbue the heavy-handedness he was renowned for that made him such a success in the businessworld.

“Then I can only say I’m sorry. If necessary, I don’t mind tendering my resignation.”

Xu Zhi Heng stared at her pensively before surrendering “You win. Till the end, you are still the same Su Yun Jin that inspires such affection and ire. Don’t worry, I’m still a gentleman. But I’m very disappointed that you never once loved me in return.”

Yun Jin’s expression changed instantly.

“... You still don’t love me. That’s why you’re always so calm ... Yun Jin, let’s break up ...” It had been three years. The memory she had tried so hard to suppress was being re-enacted right before her very eyes. That voice haunted her and wouldn’t seem to let her off. “... You still don’t love me ...”

What right did you have to say that I didn’t love you? Yun Jin could almost hear her heart cry out.

“Yun Jin?”

His voice pulled her back to reality. What was with her today? He was Xu Zhi Heng, not that guy. No one would ever break her heart again.

“I’m sorry, I had too much to drink tonight. Go home. She’s waiting for you.”

“Are you sure of your decision?” Xu Zhi Heng held onto a tiny sliver of hope.

Yun Jin’s smile was gentle but firm.

He sighed as he opened his arms “Then, the next time we meet, we would be purely colleagues. Take this as our final goodbye.”

Yun Jin stepped into his embrace and hugged him tightly; this was man who had offered her timely assistance and comfort. It would be a lie if she said she didn’t feel sad.

“Zhi Heng, trust me, you don’t actually love me. what we had was merely a mutual attraction. We will always be the best partners at work.” She knew very

clearly what her heart wanted. Some mistakes should not be repeated.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 33

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 33

[August 5, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [20 Comments](#)



Is surviving considered living?

In other news, we're at the three-quarter mark!

Chapter 33

The warmth from the heated shower steamed up the bathroom mirror. Yun Jin swiped her hand slowly across, unveiling her reflection as many tiny droplets formed in its wake. She hadn't seen herself completely naked in a long time. This girl before her grew up to be so weak. Her hands followed the contours of her neck and continued downwards till it stopped at her flat abdomen.

She was aware of the look that Lu Lu gave her as she was alighting. She wasn't in the least bit surprised that Lu Lu, who was such a romantic, was disappointed in her. In fact, her old friend Mo Yu Hua also strongly disapproved of her clandestine relationship. The Su Yun Jin who was prideful, who saw dignity as the

most important thing in life, grew up to become a third party in someone's marriage. There was nothing more ironic than this.

But if actions were reversible, would she have made the same choices? Maybe she would still have.

In the initial period post break-up with Cheng Zheng, she had clutched her phone in her palm all day. She fervently believed that no matter how terrible both of them felt, he would come looking for her eventually just as he always did after every quarrel. And when he did, she would personally tell him the words she had not had the chance to say.

But he never did come for her.

The moment the phone he had given her sank into the murky depths of the Zhu Jiang river, she finally accepted reality and its cruel twists – she and Cheng Zheng had separated for real and he no longer loved her or wanted anything to do with her. She had previously guessed that two people living together might feel suffocated eventually but when he did let go, she felt as though her soul had left her body as she walked around an empty shell.

He accused her of not loving him. How dare he accuse her of not loving him!

The subsequent days were a neverending cycle of nightmares. She had lain hopelessly on the hospital bed and the thought of committing suicide even crossed her mind. There was one night when her throat was unbearably parched. She buzzed for the late shift staff nurse to no avail. Unfortunately for her, said nurse was off on an errand so she struggled to reach the jug of water at her bedside.

Her first attempt was unfruitful. On her second try, she gritted her teeth and reached out even further. On the third try, she felt the wound splitting. She poured out a generous amount of water and downed it rapidly. She was so focused on her goal that she did not feel the pain temporarily.

In that trying time, Yu Hua was in Shanghai doing the stupidest thing of her life while Ju An had accompanied Zhang Yue to France. She never dreamed that the complications would be this severe so initially, she didn't even inform her mom. As she laid in the hospital, her colleagues brought news of a major departmental shuffle. She sensed the news was an ominous foretelling but since it was out of

her control, she was adamant not to agonize over it especially given the terrible state she was already in. After all, it wasn't like she had never lost precious things before.

Unexpectedly, Director Xu came to see her. She felt more shocked than privileged at his visitation. He was the one who had scouted her during the company interview. She had never imagined in her wildest dreams that such a high-ranking staff would personally stop by to see the small-time employee that she was. He even helped see to her hospitalisation paperwork. More importantly, he safeguarded her position during the company's vast retrenchment exercise.

Yun Jin was no fool. She could tell how he felt about her from his eyes. For a period thereafter, she was exceptionally quiet.

Eventually her mother found out about her hospitalisation and had raced across the country to get to her side. When she saw Xu Zhi Heng keeping her company instead of Cheng Zheng, she was very surprised though she held her tongue. Of course, Yun Jin didn't tell her the truth – that Xu Zhi Heng had married in Taiwan before being transferred to China for work. As his wife was unwilling to leave the life she knew, the two of them grew distant both physically and emotionally.

After her discharge, she felt as though she'd crossed an invisible threshold – everything was firmly in the past. She knew without a doubt that she had lost him forever. Truthfully, Xu Zhi Heng never once pressured her, everything was borne of her own willingness. After treading the fine line between life and death, she realised how absurd her demands of maintaining her pride and dignity was. When one is at his wit's end and has nothing to his name, dignity isn't worth a single cent. Her desperation to survive superseded her pride. Better yet, she not only had to survive but had to live *well*. She may have lost the love of her life but she couldn't lose the drive to find happiness else her life would truly be over.

Xu Zhi Heng appeared at this critical juncture. He extended a helping hand when she needed it most and was the floating plank to her drowning self. She had no other ways of repaying him. That was how she became the third party that people derided. Technically, what she had with Xu Zhi Heng wasn't an emotional contract. He was matured, handsome, accomplished, and had a high

EQ. More importantly, he was magnanimous. If she had met him sooner, she had no doubt she would have fallen for him. In her eyes, he wasn't an accomplished married man but a lonely person just as she was. She too was only human. So for almost four years, they comforted, derived warmth and depended on the other.

Apart from that one hospitalization, Yun Jin never accepted anything from Xu Zhi Heng. Yes, she needed money but it would never be a hand-out. In the company, she never received special treatment because of her relationship with Xu Zhi Heng. She didn't want it either. She wanted her works to show for herself and this motivated her to strive even harder. Xu Zhi Heng was also a principled man and never mixed personal business with work. However, it could not be denied that he had a hand in her smooth-sailing ascent in the company . If it weren't for him, she couldn't have laid in bed for three months and still keep her job when the company was undergoing a manpower upheaval. If it weren't for him, she couldn't have received yet another opportunity to go for further training which was an offer she had earlier rejected.

As commendable as her performance was, as an inexperienced young adult, she couldn't have made it this far without her superior's backing. Whenever it came to employee performance assessment and promotion, she would be up against equally qualified competitors and emerge triumphant. She was well aware of this so she pushed herself to complete all projects to the best of her ability. She needed to prove to everyone that she was deserving. In all these years, there had always been rumours swirling about the nature of her relationship with Xu Zhi Heng but since no one was absolutely certain, no one dared question her authority.

Long before his wife confronted her, Yun Jin had already predicted that her relationship with Xu Zhi Heng was coming to an end. He hadn't said anything but she could sense his ever-growing confliction. No matter what, he and his wife had been deeply in love back when they were university mates. Even in the early days of their marriage, they had been very happy and blissful. It was only after he moved to China that their marriage became strained.

Xu Zhi Heng claimed he couldn't let go of Yun Jin. This was hardly unexpected because they had provided each other with sincere companionship during their loneliest days. But Yun Jin knew she had to end this harmful relationship. One

could call her an ingrate or a scheming witch but at the end of the day, Xu Zhi Heng and her were only passer-bys in life. Now that the sun had emerged and the dark days were over, they had to part. There was a tragic beauty in possessing a broken heart; try as she might, she would never fall in love again. While she did feel a slight twinge of forlorn and regret, it was still bearable.

From that moment on, Xu Zhi Heng and her reverted to their professional relationship and they put the past behind them. It had been awkward initially but thankfully Xu Zhi Heng was a gentleman; despite their parting, he still looked out for Yun Jin in company matters. However, since their offices were located on different floors, they rarely met apart from the occasional meetings.

As for Lu Lu, ever since the nasty encounter with Mrs Xu and learning of the clandestine relationship between Yun Jin and Xu Zhi Heng, she wore a troubled frown for many days. Yun Jin couldn't stand seeing the effervescent girl appear so downcast so she summoned Lu Lu to her office.

"What's up with you recently?" Yun Jin leaned back in her seat and looked at her.

Lu Lu fidgeted before replying "Now I know being privy to a huge secret is very unbearable especially since I can't tell anyone."

Yun Jin didn't know if she should chuckle or sigh. "I think your mixing up my documents is more unbearable."

Following which, Yun Jin gave her a stern warning to focus on her work.

Yun Jin's 28th birthday followed closely after the Mid-Autumn Festival. Her mother rang her up on her birthday to nag at her singlehood given her age because some daughter of some neighbour, who was born in the same year as Yun Jin, already had a kid in kindergarten.

Her mom's health had slowly deteriorated over the years with all sorts of illnesses cropping up so Yun Jin tried her best to be filial so as not to upset her mother unnecessarily. This time was no different as she placated her mother by solemnly repeating her promise not to miss a good catch if he should come by.

On the other hand, well-meaning Lu Lu had convinced every single colleague in the marketing division to contribute to buying Yun Jin a ridiculously large

bouquet of roses on her special day. No woman would ever reject roses so after work, Yun Jin deposited her bouquet in the front passenger seat. The car was immediately filled with the mild, sweet scent of the roses and Yun Jin thought to herself that maybe turning a year older wasn't such a scary thing after all.

A few days earlier, Yu Hua arranged to have dinner with her to celebrate this milestone in her life. Yun Jin decided to head home first to freshen up before meeting her good pal. When she was in the carpark, she eyeballed a familiar looking Volvo. Actually, as early as a week ago, Yun Jin had already seen the same car in the carpark. She had been frightened witless when she noticed that the license plate was exactly the same as the one that had tailed her the other night so she had sought out the security guard. However, she was then informed that the owner was a proprietor in their condominium. Yun Jin felt something was amiss but she reasoned that it would make sense that the Volvo had appeared to be tailing her the other night if he also lived here and that her suspicions were unfounded.

Just as she was about to drive pass that car, Yun Jin cut her speed and wound down her window. She hoped that if she was lucky, she would be able to catch a glimpse of the owner but it was not meant to be. The district had a ruling: cars were not allowed to dally in non-parking spaces for long. However, her overwhelming curiosity would not be sated so she pulled to a side and was prepared to wait it out. In the end, she wasn't disappointed because in under two minutes, a couple who were wrapped around each other emerged from the lift.

If she were someone else, she would have felt that the couple before her eyes was a perfect pairing – the man was tall and handsome whereas the lady was petite and beautiful. It was apparent from his actions that he cared very much for his lady and that the two were very much in love. In this moment, it was already evening and Su Yun Jin sat frozen in her car that was sealed off from the outside world. She noticed that dusk was descending on her and the darkness was swallowing up the heavens and the earth, casting everything into shadows and leaving her out of touch from the couple outside who was too engrossed with smiling at each other to notice anyone or anything in their vicinity.

It wasn't that she had never imagined their paths crossing. In fact, she had

expected herself to be able to smile and forget the troubled past they shared or at the very most, she would at least force herself to walk away calmly. Now she knew she did not have it in her. She wanted to step on the accelerator and speed off but every inch of muscle in her body was weirdly out of sync as they tensed up and refused to obey her instructions. All she could do was sit stiffly as she watched him, and her, board the car and depart.

Even as the two cars crossed, he didn't see her.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 34

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 34

[August 7, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [14 Comments](#)



What will be the aftermath of their near encounter?

Chapter 34

Yun Jin sat numbly as she watched his car exit from her rearview mirror. Time crawled to a standstill as she tried to process the scene she had just witnessed. Soon, a bitter and acidic vile liquid rose up her throat. She quickly pushed the car door open and staggered to a side where she rested one hand on a palm tree for support as she doubled over and retched.

A guard on patrol recognized her and asked with concern “Ms Su, are you alright?”

Yun Jin waved her hands at him to indicate she was fine before limply making her way back onto the car. She caught sight of herself – her usual lightly made up face was as white as a sheet. Her forehead and palms were also covered in a thin coat of perspiration. She decided against changing her outfit and set off directly

for the designated dinner venue.

When she arrived at the restaurant, Yu Hua was already there waiting. Yu Hua was shocked to see her pale face and dazed expression as she approached weakly. Yun Jin gulped down half a cup of water before recounting the events from the top.

After mulling it over, Yu Hua asked solemnly “What do you think Cheng Zheng hopes to achieve from this? Surely it can’t be pure coincidence?”

Yun Jin herself was at a loss and she shook her head slowly “I don’t know. Whatever his intentions are, whether it’s a coincidence, the fact that he moved into the same building as I and followed me the other night ... It’s too scary.”

Yu Hua sighed outwardly “It’s been such a long time. Now both of you are living separate lives, why did he bother?”

“Yu Hua do you think he’s harbouring revenge? And she is merely a paid actress he hired to provoke me?” Yun Jin looked hopefully at her good friend, hoping to hear the response she desired.

Yu Hua hesitated. Finally, she decided to undertake the difficult role of bearer of the cold hard truth “I didn’t tell you this earlier but actually Cheng Zheng has found himself a girlfriend. I heard it from Zhou ... Anyway it’s been almost two years now. From what I’ve gathered, she’s petite and pretty and studied the same course as he in university. She’s apparently a few years our junior. Based on your earlier description, I’m 80% certain it’s her.”

Yun Jin listened intently with her head bowed. A long time later, she raised her head and the final flicker of hope in her eyes had been doused “Is that so?”

Seeing her dejected manner, Yu Hua softened “Yun Jin you’re a smart woman so you should know this better than me – you’ve separated for four years now so it’s inevitable that he’s moved on. Why do this to yourself?”

“You’re right. I am more aware than anybody else. Who am I to demand that he holds out for me? He has found someone ... I’d previously thought of this but seeing it with my very own eyes are completely different things. Why must he appear now? The person who previously loved only me is now with someone else.” She laughed softly but her sadness was palpable.

“Yu Hua I’m such a joke aren’t I? Before today, I was beginning to believe that I was living a good life and that even if I were to bump into him, I could force myself to smile and meet him face-on. But now I know that it was all wishful thinking on my part. The moment they appeared, I realised whatever I’ve accomplished in the past four years is not worth a mention. Whatever his goal is, he has certainly succeeded.”

“I wonder who owed the other a debt in your previous lives.” Yu Hua shook her head “But now you should at least have a game plan. I don’t think Cheng Zheng’s moving in to your block is just to vex you.”

“He already has a pretty girl on his arm, what can I possibly come up with? I can only react according to the situation.”

“Do you want to move to my place for the time being?” After Yu Hua’s graduation from medical school, she was deployed to a hospital that was affiliated to her university and she had a room on the premises.

Yun Jin shook her head at the offer “It’s not too convenient for you if I were to move over. Besides, I can’t run from him forever. Actually, it’s good that I saw what I did today. Although admittedly I’m upset, at least I can kill all hope once and for all. You’re right. No matter his motives, it’s been four years and we’ve our own lives now. I don’t owe him anything.”

“You’re really okay with it?” Yu Hua still remembered how ghastly Yun Jin looked when she walked in earlier.

“Don’t worry; I’m no longer the silly fool who will cry in secret when I encounter hurdles.”

At this moment, the waiter served the dishes that Yu Hua had already ordered. Yu Hua toasted Yun Jin and wished her a happy birthday. After clinking their glasses, both downed the alcohol in one shot.

“I’m 28 now. Wow it’s been 10 years. After all that has happened, even if I want to, I can’t deny that I’m old.”

Yu Hua couldn’t help but chuckle “Oh yes. I don’t know if you’ve heard the news but Meng Xue has given birth – it’s a boy.”

“Really?” Yun Jin was happy for her. Two years earlier, Meng Xue married their

classmate Song Ming and followed her husband over to Guangzhou. This unexpected turn of events was rather amusing considering how she had pined after Cheng Zheng when the perfect man for her had been in her vicinity all along. When she was making her wedding preparations, she sent someone to deliver Yun Jin a wedding invitation. In the end however, Yun Jin sought Yu Hua's help in passing the couple their red packet on her behalf as she skipped the ceremony altogether.

After that, Meng Xue rang her up and asked if Yun Jin was still angry at her for being the precipitating factor for Cheng Zheng's and her break-up. Yun Jin then explained to Meng Xue that her break-up had nothing to do with other people and that the drunk incident was merely a catalyst. Even if that night hadn't happen, their relationship was doomed. She clarified that she never once held it against Meng Xue; she didn't turn up for the wedding only because ... she had no courage to face Cheng Zheng.

After that heartfelt conversation, any traces of enmity between the two dissolved and both felt an invisible burden had been lifted. How many old friendships could last this long? So after Meng Xue's marriage, their relationship improved significantly. Although they were not best of friends by a long shot, their friendship was genuine.

"That's great to hear. I really envy her for having such a doting husband and a child. A woman possessing these ... her life is perfect." Yu Hua said enviously. The words had only just escaped her lips when Yu Hua cringed at her own insensitivity. She cast an anxious glance Yun Jin's way and heaved a sigh of relief at Yun Jin's non-reaction.

Yun Jin nodded in agreement "That truly is blissfulness. My mother is really anxious now and she's wringing her hands everyday over my lack of marital status."

"Your mom does have a point though. It really is time to sit down and think it over. Now that you've separated from Xu Zhi Heng, you should have a proper relationship."

"When I told mom I'll think it over, I wasn't merely trying to placate her you know. If there is a good catch, I will be sure to snap him up." Yun Jin joked in

response.

Yu Hua laughed as well “There are a few eligible bachelors in the hospital. How? Are you interested? If you are I wouldn’t mind bearing with the loss by introducing them to you.”

“What loss are you talking about? Surely good things should be shared. But now that we’re on the topic, the killer-good-looks surgeon you introduced the last time? He’s out.”

“Okay! The next one will definitely meet your expectations ...”

“Oh right! How’s your transfer paperwork coming along?” The thought suddenly sprang to Yun Jin’s mind when the conversation turned to the hospital. The hospital in which Yu Hua was working at had recently partnered a hospital in Dublin. Just this year, her application to be transferred to the sister hospital had been approved. If everything was on schedule, her paperwork should almost be completed but Yun Jin never once heard Yu Hua mentioning her imminent departure.

Mo Yu Hua hesitated “I don’t feel like leaving right now.”

She didn’t have to spell it out but Yun Jin understood.

“For his sake? ... You best think it over.” Su Yun Jin despaired for her good friend. If she could reason, so could Mo Yu Hua. Perhaps that was the most upsetting part – she knew it was a fruitless attempt but she still went ahead with it anyway.

When they parted and both had boarded their respective cars, the smile on Yun Jin’s face slowly vanished. She gathered herself before heading for home.

As she was parking, she noticed that his car was already parked. Yun Jin felt a mixture of emotions at the sight. There is a saying that people always changed; as for him, his car was different now and even his lover had been replaced. He was no longer the Cheng Zheng she knew. He was no longer hers. At this thought, Yun Jin warned herself that in the coming days she had to control herself. No matter what happened, she must not let him see that she hurt.

When she pressed the lift button, it was coincidentally on its descent. The door opened and someone walked out and met her straight on. Both parties halted in

their footsteps.

He was ultimately first to react. He looked perfectly stunned, as though it really was the first time he had seen her in all those years “Yun Jin! What are you doing here?”

Yun Jin looked him squarely in the eye and laughed bitterly inside although she plastered on an equally surprised smile “I live here. And you?”

“What a coincidence! I just moved in last week. Wow, it really is quite something that we’ve actually become neighbours. The way the world works sure is strange.” He wore a half-smile that was both familiar and foreign, as though taunting her that he was no longer within reach.

“Yes indeed, what a surprise.” She echoed him.

“The roses are beautiful. Now that I’ve seen you with such a huge bouquet, it seems redundant to ask if you’ve been well. How come you’re alone? Where’s your admirer?” His two hands were jammed in his pockets and he appeared laidback and carefree as though he was asking a simple question and not prying into her love-life as he was doing.

“We just had a meal together. He’s not free today.” Yun Jin said, deliberately not setting his mistaken assumption straight.

“Oh ...” It appeared to be a revelation to him. “It’s been some time since we’ve met. Have you been well?”

Yun Jin smiled lightly “By God’s grace I’m okay.”

“That’s good to know. I’ve always said that people have different interpretations of happiness.” Cheng Zheng said casually.

“That’s true. People will only know what true happiness is after they’ve been in unpleasant situations. It’s only when you’ve met the wrong person that you know who the right one is ... I’m sorry. I’m sure you have something urgent to see to right now. Maybe we should continue this conversation another day.” Yun Jin wanted desperately to end this ridiculous conversation. Both of them still had memories of the past and this interaction was so superficial and their facades too false, it was beneath the both of them. If they were to continue, she didn’t know if she had it in her to keep up her lie.

“Yeah since we live so near each other, there’ll be plenty of chances to meet in the future.” The corners of his lips turned up.

Yun Jin adjusted her body to pass him and enter the lift. “See you another day then.”

She wished the elevator doors would shut faster so she could drop her superficial smile. But just as the doors were about to close, he stuck his hand in and made the doors part again. Yun jin wasn’t expecting that and she couldn’t help but take a small step back uneasily.

Cheng Zheng did not bat an eyelid as he looked in her eyes and smiled “I think we should at least exchange numbers. After all ... we’re neighbours now. Tell me your number and I’ll give you a call.” He tried hard to appear natural to keep the mood light but his tone was hard and unyielding.

Yun Jin studied him thoughtfully before spouting a string of numbers which Cheng Zheng duly keyed into his handphone. True to his word, he gave her a call on the spot. His grin widened when he heard her phone ringing in her purse.

“You should also save my number. You never know, you might need my help one day.”

Yun Jin smiled but didn’t respond.

“Bye.” Cheng Zheng smiled before turning back once again. If this was the first time they met, Yun Jin would have thought his smile was exceptionally charming but now all Yun Jin felt was a lump in her throat.

The moment he turned his back on her, she felt a sudden surge of weariness. If this was how it would be in future days, it would be too tiring on everyone. It would be better to hack away at their false pretences now.

She quickly pressed the button for the doors to open again and she yelled after him “Cheng Zheng!”

He stopped in his tracks although he didn’t turn back.

“Let’s stop this. It’s been four years and you still don’t know how to lie. Don’t you find out entire interaction a huge joke? Tell me, what do you want?” her voice sounded unusually formal and distant, something he was not familiar to.

He continued to keep his back to her as he replied slowly “I think you’re mistaken. I don’t want anything. I only moved here because my girlfriend likes the environment here. I don’t have any other intentions. You’re right, I did see you yesterday but since she was also present, and our past relationship is too hard to explain, I didn’t say hello. That’s all. Su Yun Jin, we don’t have to be friends but I’ve let go of the past. You don’t have to be so guarded around me.”

“I hope it is as you’ve said. I hope we can maintain neighbourly relations. Good night.”

The elevator began its ascent but Yun Jin’s heart was on a rapid descent.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 35

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 35

[August 10, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [25 Comments](#)



I think we can all agree that their most recent encounter in which they traded superficial pleasantries was a huge tease. But are they ready for a proper conversation?

Chapter 35

Yun Jin lay on her bed for a long time. Sleep eluded her. She tossed and turned every once in a while but she couldn't find a good sleeping position. Maybe she ought to purchase an orthopedic bed. Or maybe, she ought to find a more dependable set of shoulders. But meeting that pair of shoulders was up to fate. At the end of the day, it was more practical to change the bedding.

She had never thought there would come this day when they lived in the same block once again much less bump into each other and speak in a roundabout manner. It was the first time he was within touching distance in

four years although he was no longer hers.

He had changed. He was still just as handsome but the boy who had once been impulsive and blunt had now morphed into an aloof, mature man. Only a few of his habitual tics remained to remind her of his former self.

He was within reaching distance. Every single pore on her body came alive at that realization and they screamed and desired and pined for him! She felt such a disgrace for wanting him so badly. Was it because she was tired of feeling lonely or was it because he was *him*?

He hadn't been truthful. In the past, whenever he lied, he never looked her face-on. It had already been so many years of non-contact, why did he go through all that trouble to upset her? Yun Jin couldn't guess what was on his mind and was even more clueless as to what she intended to do about him and this weird predicament. She decided it best to adopt a wait-and-see approach.

In the subsequent days, Yun Jin tried her best to avoid him. Although they were neighbours, they were not living across the same hallway – she lived on the 12th and he on the 18th floor. Since she endeavoured to avoid him at all costs, there was an even smaller likelihood of a direct encounter.

He had regular working hours. Sometimes she would already be in the safety of her home when she would hear the punctual screeching of tires. Every time this happened, she couldn't help but peer down from behind her lacey curtain. Sometimes he would be with the girl but mostly he was alone.

There had also been occasions when their paths had crossed in the public setting. He would only greet her politely. There was even once when Yun Jin came home particularly late, she bumped into him and the girlfriend. Without skipping a beat, he had introduced the both of them but he deftly avoided a sticky situation by stating she was his senior high classmate instead of his ex-girlfriend.

Since he acted so calmly and indifferently to her presence, Yun Jin decided it would be incredibly petty of herself if she were to distance herself. Hence, she decided to go with the flow as well by pretending he was merely a friend whom she lost contact with. She reasoned that if she maintained a suitable distance, there was no fear of being hurt by him.

Early one morning, Yun Jin prepared to head to work as she had done countless times. She was just reversing from her parking lot when she saw Cheng Zheng gesturing at her.

She wound her window down and asked “Good morning. Can I help you?”

“Is your company over at Tian He? I have some matters to see to there and my car’s giving me trouble. Would it be convenient to give me a lift?” Cheng Zheng asked politely.

Yun Jin mulled over his request as she studied him carefully. She wasn’t sure he was telling the truth.

“Forget it. I’ll just hail a cab on the main road instead since it’s not convenient for you.” He sensed her discomfort from her non-reply and didn’t want to pressure her.

“It’s no problem. Hop on.” Yun Jin didn’t want to appear as if she was holding onto grudges.

When Cheng Zheng got into the front seat, she was immediately hit with a familiar whiff of aftershave.

“When did your architectural firm have business at Tian He?” she asked.

Cheng Zheng stared at her before breaking into bitter laughter “I guess you’ve really not sought news of me all this time. I’ve left that designing firm two years ago. I’m partners with Zi Yi now and we’re looking for potential projects. Coincidentally, there’s something that came up in your area so I thought I’ll take a look today.”

Yun Jin didn’t find it in the least bit surprising. As long as one was wealthy and had the capital, what wasn’t he capable of? She recalled seeing a few plots of land near the office undergoing construction works and decided against asking for more details.

“Have you had your breakfast? It’s still some time before work begins. Shall we eat together?” Cheng Zheng suggested.

“Oh, no thanks. I’ve already eaten at home. I’ve made it a habit to report early for work.”

“Forget it then.” Cheng Zheng shrugged his shoulders “I still remember back then you were always rushing to make it in time for work.”

Yun Jin kept her focus on the road ahead and answered seemingly carelessly “That’s only because back then I needed to prepare two portions of breakfasts and help you prepare for work. Also since I took a lift from you, I needed to wait for you too.”

Cheng Zheng grinned “It seems life is truly better for you after leaving me.”

“Isn’t it the same for you?”

Cheng Zheng stared out the window at the buildings that flew past. After a long pause, he said “Yun Jin you’ve changed.”

He didn’t see it but Yun Jin’s grip on the steering wheel tightened momentarily though her tone was as unmoved as usual “It’s been a long time. Who wouldn’t have changed? People need to look forward.”

“You’re absolutely right. Change is also good. The Su Yun Jin from before was a fool. Who knew the idiot who viewed dignity and pride above all else would now be shrewed enough to seduce her superior to pave the way for a smooth career? And when the guy’s wife came raring for a fight, she was even able to dismiss her easily.”

A van turned in suddenly from a minor road and Yun Jin swerved the steering wheel abruptly. Both of them were tossed violently in their seats.

She was right; that night he had also been at Left Bank.

“I think this is none of your concern.” She temped down her emotions and made no effort to explain herself.

“Actually, it’s not completely irrelevant to me. At the very least, I want to know your if your so-called principles and pride is only directed at me.” He continued to smile pleasantly at her.

Yun Jin appeared thoughtful “I guess it’s not wrong for you to think that way.”

Cheng Zheng looked away from her and laughed “I see. Thank you anyway for answering a question that has troubled me for such a long time.” He

noticed that Yun Jin's lips were pressed together firmly so he reached out to switch on the radio. "We're only just chatting casually. No need to feel uptight."

A melody started playing on the radio and reverberated through the car as though attempting to permeate the awkward air. A man [sang](#) sorrowfully:

*We used to view the sky together
I breathed with you
But I'm no longer with you
Is there any like us?
We loved but we lost
If you are willing
Even if troubles met us head-on
And life tried to tire us out
If we could just hold on
Till the rain comes
And fall on this barren land
...
If only you are willing
I will entrust my being to you*

The two journeyed in silence.

They were fast approaching Yun Jin's workplace so Cheng Zheng pointed at a junction ahead and said "You can pull over there. I'll just walk the rest of the way."

Yun Jin pulled over as requested.

Cheng Zheng alighted and bent over at the window "Thanks for the lift."

"Don't mention it. It was on the way." She was equally polite before stepping on the accelerator.

Cheng Zheng jammed both hands in his pockets as was his habit and stared after her until her car disappeared from his line of vision. Then he hailed a cab.

At lunchtime, Yun Jin headed to the café at the office lobby as she usually did. At this period, the majority of the patrons were fellow white-collared

workers from the various offices nearby although Yun Jin's colleagues still occupied the greater percentage. Hence, Lu Lu had taken to referring to the café as the "company's staff canteen".

She made her way down with Lu Lu who stuck to her side like a leech. The "staff canteen" waiters recognised them instantly and were exceptionally attentive to their loyal patrons' needs as they led them to a four-seated table. Yun Jin ordered her usual whereas Lu Lu flipped through the menu repeatedly and couldn't make a decision. Yun Jin was not in a hurry so she sipped her water patiently while waiting for Lu Lu to decide.

Finally she decided on a set of XO sauce noodles. They were just returning the menus to the waiter when Lu Lu exclaimed loudly, causing Yun Jin to almost choke on her water in fright.

Lu Lu tugged at Yun Jin's sleeve excitedly as she scooted closer and spoke in hushed tones "Sister Su, quick look! It's him ..."

"Who's 'he'?" Yun Jin peered in the direction she was pointing at.

"It's the guy from Left Bank I was telling you about!"

Yun Jin stared blankly.

"How is he? My taste is excellent right. Hahahaha he and I are fated after all ... OMG he's looking my way!"

Yun Jin ignored her wild squeals of delight. She just couldn't seem to shake him off and she wondered what he wanted from her.

Cheng Zheng walked up to them beaming "I knew there was a possibility I would bump into you here. I couldn't finish my work in the morning so I'll be continuing in the afternoon. I decided it was wiser to take a lunch break and since this was nearby, I came here. Mind if I sit?"

"Yes you may." Lu Lu nodded her head vigorously, reminding Yun Jin of a chick pecking wildly at corn.

"I'm sorry but our colleagues will be joining us." Yun Jin ignored Lu Lu.

He wasn't at all offended as he continued to smile "That's alright. I'll treat you to a meal some other time then."

“Sure.” Yun Jin answered in the affirmative.

When Cheng Zheng finally sat down in another corner of the restaurant, Lu Lu stomped her feet in exasperation “Sister Su, why didn’t you let him sit with us? So you know him. Who is he?”

“I was worried that you’ll be drooling over him instead of your food.”

“What logic is that?! I can eat anytime but it’s not everyday that I can meet such an exceptional guy. Quick, tell me who he is!”

“A senior high classmate of mine.”

“Sister Su! Why didn’t you claim such a gorgeous man as your own? If it were me, he would have long been trapped in my clutches.”

“Don’t spout nonsense. He’s attached.” Yun Jin remarked indifferently.

Lu Lu was unimpressed “So what if he has a girlfriend? Anyone is free to admire a handsome man.”

Yun Jin cast a quick, suspicious glance at Cheng Zheng as she replied “Must you exaggerate?”

He was wearing a blue V-necked pullover with black trousers. It was his typical attire – simple and comfortable. The only accessory on him was a thin silver chain around his neck but the pendant, if any, was concealed under the sweater. Yun Jin realized suddenly that he never wore any accessory previously. It was probably a gift from his current girlfriend.

Yun Jin had always known that Cheng Zheng was good looking but his character was tough and unyielding, a typical alpha male. He had short hair and tan skin and his facial contour was sharp with good features. He was a far cry from the pretty boy type that was all the rage now so she couldn’t fathom why Lu Lu, who always lusted after the F4 types, was so enamoured with him.

“Sister Su, trust me, my taste has always been flawless. Your classmate looks both clean-cut yet sexy with such a fine disposition. He’s definitely a rare find.”

Yun Jin shuddered inwardly at her comments. What was a fine disposition? Could someone who couldn’t be bothered to wash his socks or have the ability

to look after himself be said to have a fine disposition?

Lu Lu could tell that Yun Jin didn't fully agree with her assessment so she asked after his name again before nagging and pleading Yun Jin to introduce them.

"Another day alright?" Yun Jin tried to patronize her.

"Not alright. Sister Su please I beg you. I only have this tiny tiny tiny request. Sister Suuuuuu..."

Yun Jin was vexed enough as it was and she couldn't stand her incessant chattering any longer. She swallowed her food quickly before dragging her over to Cheng Zheng's table.

Cheng Zheng was surprised to see them approach. Yun Jin pointed awkwardly at Lu Lu "This is my department's youngest recruit Lu Lu. Lu Lu, this is my senior high classmate Cheng Zheng."

Cheng Zheng arched his eyebrows in amusement as he stared at Yun Jin quizzically. Yun Jin avoided his gaze.

Lu Lu stuck out her hand eagerly and said enthusiastically "Hello handsome! I'm so happy to make your acquaintance."

Yun Jin felt goosebumps all over; so this was how the younger generation carried themselves.

Cheng Zheng looked away from Yun Jin as he got to his feet and took the outstretched hand in his "So am I."

Lu Lu got even more out of hand as she offered "How about we make plans to go out and have fun sometime? I saw you at Left Bank before but you didn't see me then."

Cheng Zheng smiled at this though his expression was hard to read. He mulled it over before saying "Why not? In fact, why wait? I'm free tonight, how about I treat you ladies to a meal? Yun Jin, do come. It's been such a *long* time since we've eaten together."

"That would most definitely not be a problem. Sister Su is also available tonight. See you then!" Lu Lu was ecstatic and was quick to respond in fear

that he would revoke his offer. She looked at Yun Jin pleadingly “Sister Su ... You are free tonight right ... ”

Cheng Zheng was also staring at her and she knew what his gaze meant. He was challenging her *Su Yun Jin, do you dare?*

Yun Jin grew quiet as she struggled with herself. What was she so afraid of? There was nothing else for her to lose. What could possibly be worse than the strange situation she and Cheng Zheng were in now?

“I don’t mind.”

Lu Lu did not conceal her joy and another person at the scene appeared equally happy.

“You ladies end at six right? How about meeting at Left Bank again? Let’s take it as supporting Zhang Yue’s business. We’ll meet at seven-thirty. Yun Jin, you have my number. I’m looking forward to tonight.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 36

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 36

[August 17, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [16 Comments](#)



And world's most awkward dinner goes to ...

Chapter 36

Seven-thirty, Left Bank.

When Yun Jin and Lu Lu reached punctually, they found Cheng Zheng already seated. He had changed into a gray-white striped silk shirt and black tweed trousers. It was simple yet stylish and his outfit accentuated his good looks. The trio browsed the menu and ordered dishes while having a casual conversation.

Yun Jin was glad for Lu Lu's presence because the lively chatterbox single-handedly generated most of the conversation at the table. In fact, she was talking animatedly and laughing at her own jokes. The atmosphere was not at all dull. Cheng Zheng would occasionally respond good-naturedly while Yun Jin simply smiled and kept silent throughout.

The dishes had just been served when Cheng Zheng received a call so he

excused himself. When he eventually returned, he had an odd expression as he asked “I’m sorry ladies but would you mind if my girlfriend joins us?”

“Not at all! It would be very nice to meet her.” Lu Lu appeared enthusiastic and was determined to battle her romantic foe. On the other hand, Yun Jin had no reaction.

At her reply Cheng Zheng walked off once again while clutching his handphone closely to his ear. He spoke in deep concentration and after some ten minutes, he disappeared only to return with his girlfriend.

Cheng Zheng’s current lover was Zheng Xiao Tong. It wasn’t Yun Jin’s first time meeting her; they had a few run-ins in their neighbourhood and they had always politely acknowledged the other in such situations. As for Lu Lu, this was her first encounter. After meeting the lady in question, her morale was quickly deflated. She knew there was no contest.

Zheng Xiao Tong was considerably beautiful – she was petite and her small face was beset with a pair of big, expressive eyes. However, on closer scrutiny, one would note that the eyes lacked liveliness which made her seem rather dull after the revelation. She was also rather timid which made her appear innocent and naïve. It was hard to believe that this same girl had actually graduated from one of the top universities in the nation.

After Cheng Zheng had introduced everyone, Lu Lu tried to make small talk with Zheng Xiao Tong. However, her interest soon waned. Zheng Xiao Tong wasn’t stupid in the least; it was just that her mental processing was rather slow and thus she often had a confused expression as she tried to internalise the conversation.

Cheng Zheng was extremely attentive to her needs. When he noticed that Lu Lu was fast losing interest in conversing with Xiao Tong, he began to tell her the happenings of his day right down to the details.

Lu Lu bent her head low and fiddled with her phone. A split second later, Yun Jin felt her purse behind her vibrate. She feared that fishing it out immediately would make it too blatantly obvious so she waited a bit before taking a look. It was indeed from Lu Lu and her message contained only three words: What a waste.

Yun Jin understood what Lu Lu meant and she flashed her a warning glance. At that, Lu Lu bowed her head sheepishly. In all honesty, Yun Jin also came to a similar assessment of Xiao Tong. However, taking her complicated past with Cheng Zheng into consideration, she dared not remark on Zheng Xiao Tong even behind her back. She reminded herself constantly that Zheng Xiao Tong was Cheng Zheng's current lover and it was a choice he had willingly made. Since it was none of her business, she shouldn't comment. She could see the two of them speaking in hushed tones out of her peripheral vision but she restrained herself from staring by focusing on eating.

Lu Lu was bored to death. She used her chopsticks and skilfully picked up one of the prawns she ordered. She placed one in her bowl and another in Yun Jin's "Sister Su, do try this."

Yun Jin was unsettled and she wanted to distract herself badly. At Lu Lu's sweet gesture, she wiped her hands clean on the wet napkins before making a move to shell the prawns. She was just about to start when Cheng Zheng said abruptly "She doesn't eat that."

Lu Lu sensed that his words were directed at her but she didn't know what to make of it. Cheng Zheng ignored her as he turned to Yun Jin "When you ate this previously, your body broke out in rashes remember?"

Yun Jin didn't dare look up as her hands froze in midair. She couldn't understand how Cheng Zheng, who had been deep in conversation with his girlfriend, could suddenly turn his attention to her. She replied softly "It's okay. I don't have that kind of reaction anymore." before continuing with the deshelling.

Suddenly, Cheng Zheng reached over and snatched the prawn she was deshelling and tossed it onto the table next to his plate. He wiped the sauce from his fingers as he said "I told you it's better not to eat it. Why test your limits?" His tone was unusually harsh.

Lu Lu stared agape at the scene before her before breaking out into laughter "Wow you guys are some classmates. How do you even remember such stuff? Sister Su, in that case, it's best not to eat that. Why don't you try the fish instead? The steamed fish today is delicious!"

Yun Jin smiled at her to ease the awkward tension. Zheng Xiao Tong was also smiling at her boyfriend although there was a flash of confusion in her large eyes. Cheng Zheng sensed that his behaviour had been way out of line so he coughed lightly and turned to face Xiao Tong again, “What do you like to eat? If you can’t reach it let me know.”

“Handsome, this is not right. How can you not know about your girlfriend’s favourite food yet recall your senior high friend’s allergy?” Lu Lu was unstoppable.

“Eat your food and stop talking so much!” If she could, Yun Jin would have shoved Lu Lu’s words back down her throat.

Cheng Zheng was a picture of calm as he replied “That’s only because your dear sister Su’s allergic reaction left quite an impression on me. Aren’t I right Yun Jin?”

Yun Jin flashed a tight smile. How could she not remember? In their years together, her body would break out in hives whenever she had prawns and it was every bit as painful and itchy as it looked. And after taking anti-histamines, she would lie bare-backed as Cheng Zheng massaged her. He never exerted too much force out of fear of hurting her. As he rubbed her skin ever so gently, they would inevitably get tangled up ...But that was a very long time ago. He shouldn’t be bringing up the past so flippantly and neither should she reminisce the past.

Yun Jin was still lost in her thoughts when Lu Lu suddenly wondered aloud “I don’t see you eating the prawns so why is your face all red? Don’t tell me just merely touching it would cause an allergic flare?”

“Oh right Cheng Zheng, how’s your project at Tian He progressing?” Yun Jin decided to be proactive in diverting the topic.

Zheng Xiao Tong’s puzzlement was evident on her face “Cheng Zheng, when did you have business over at Tian He? Didn’t you say you were working at Er Sha Dao these few days?”

“My friend’s real estate construction hit a snag so I went over to take a look.”

Lu Lu wised up to to Yun Jin’s hint and was quiet for a period though eventually she couldn’t stand it. She asked Zheng Xiao Tong brazenly “Hey, Xiao Tong, we

should be of similar age right? But how come I'm not as fortunate as you? Do teach me how to land such a handsome boyfriend!"

Zheng Xiao Tong never expected such an unabashed question, certainly not in Cheng Zheng's presence. She blushed and darted a quick look at Cheng Zheng. Seeing that he had no reaction, she began "There is no secret technique whatsoever. Cheng Zheng was my father's student and my father thought highly of him ..."

"Your dad liked him? But it's not your dad who's dating him." Lu Lu needled.

"It's not that. I also had ... But initially, he was still attached. When I was in Year Four, my father arranged for me to intern at the architectural firm Cheng Zheng was in. At that period, he had just broke off with his girlfriend and was very heartbroken so I kept him company. He insisted that I teach him to play Go and one thing led to another ..."

"You don't have to go on. I understand now." Lu Lu waved her hands dismissively before turning to Yun Jin "See I knew it. All I really need is a chance. How come such good opportunities never seem to come my way? But isn't it odd? How could his ex be so willing to part with such a handsome boyfriend who loved her so deeply? It's so incredulous right Sister Su?"

Yun Jin replied calmly "Perhaps the handsome guy was just not compatible with her? Anyway, sometimes love isn't enough to sustain a couple in the long run. But of course I'm not referring to Cheng Zheng and his ex."

"That may not necessarily be the case." Cheng Zheng was smiling as he appeared to speak to Lu Lu "Actually the scariest thing is giving your whole heart to a person only to realise the affection is not mutual. That's the real misfortune."

"Oh this is deep stuff. I *love* it! But can I just ask one teeny tiny detail? That other party you mentioned must be some goddess... What I mean to say is I really admire her." Lu Lu nodded vigorously as she spoke.

Cheng Zheng smiled coldly and did not continue the topic any further while Zheng Xiao Tong furrowed her brow as she earnestly tried to recall ...

"She was his senior high classmate if I'm not wrong." Xiao Tong looked at

Cheng Zheng for confirmation.

“Hmmm ...” Lu Lu slapped the table enthusiastically “I know! Sister Su ...”

Yun Jin nearly died in fright as Lu Lu continued “... must surely know her as well.”

“Yeah. But I wasn’t very close to her.” Yun Jin tried to be as vague as possible as she recovered from the scare.

However, Lu Lu simply would not ease up on her interrogation. Just as she was about to press Yun Jin for more details, the door to their private room opened and the waiters immediately bowed in unison “Ms Zhang.”

“Cheng Zheng you rascal. Why didn’t you come say hi since you’ve dropped by. If the staff hadn’t inform me...” Zhang Yue had not stepped in but her complaints could already be heard distinctly. She had not expected to meet Yun Jin there of all places and certainly not with ... She stood stock still before looking blankly at Cheng Zheng who was calmly seated in the midst. Even if she was more quick-witted, she would still be unable to figure out the connection between the four of them.

“Hi Zhang Yue.” This Lu Lu seemed to know people wherever she went.

Given her career, Zhang Yue had been in all manner of situations. She suppressed her shock before casting a quick glance outside before saying hesitantly “Lu Lu what are you doing here? He’s here too.”

Lu Lu’s expression changed in an instant.

Zhang Yue was troubled by the quartet before her; one Cheng Zheng was enough trouble. With his ex and current girlfriend flanking both sides and Lu Lu ... it was simply too overwhelming. Before beating a hasty retreat from the murky situation, she tossed out “Eat to your fill guys. I’ve things to see to now. Cheng Zheng I’ll ring you when I’m free.”

Zhang Yue departed swiftly before any of them could react. The waiters had yet to close the door when a group of men in suits came walking in. Amongst them was a thirty-odd gentleman whose gaze swept through the room quickly. In a flash, Lu Lu disappeared under the draped table. It was only when those men had left and the doors were fastened that Lu Lu crawled out trembling. She

couldn't care less what the others thought of her as she tiptoed to the door and cracked open a gap so she could peer out cautiously. She hastily grabbed her belongings after she confirmed that "he" had left for good.

"I'm sorry. I have to make a move first. You guys have a good chat ... If no one is eating these prawns, can I pack them for home?"

When Cheng Zheng gestured that she could, Lu Lu quickly wrapped them messily in a napkin and made a dash for it "See you around!"

"Wait up Lu Lu! I'll give you a ride." Yun Jin had wanted to leave for the longest time; she *had* to seize the opportunity. She bid Chang Zheng and Zheng Xiao Tong adieu before catching up to Lu Lu outside.

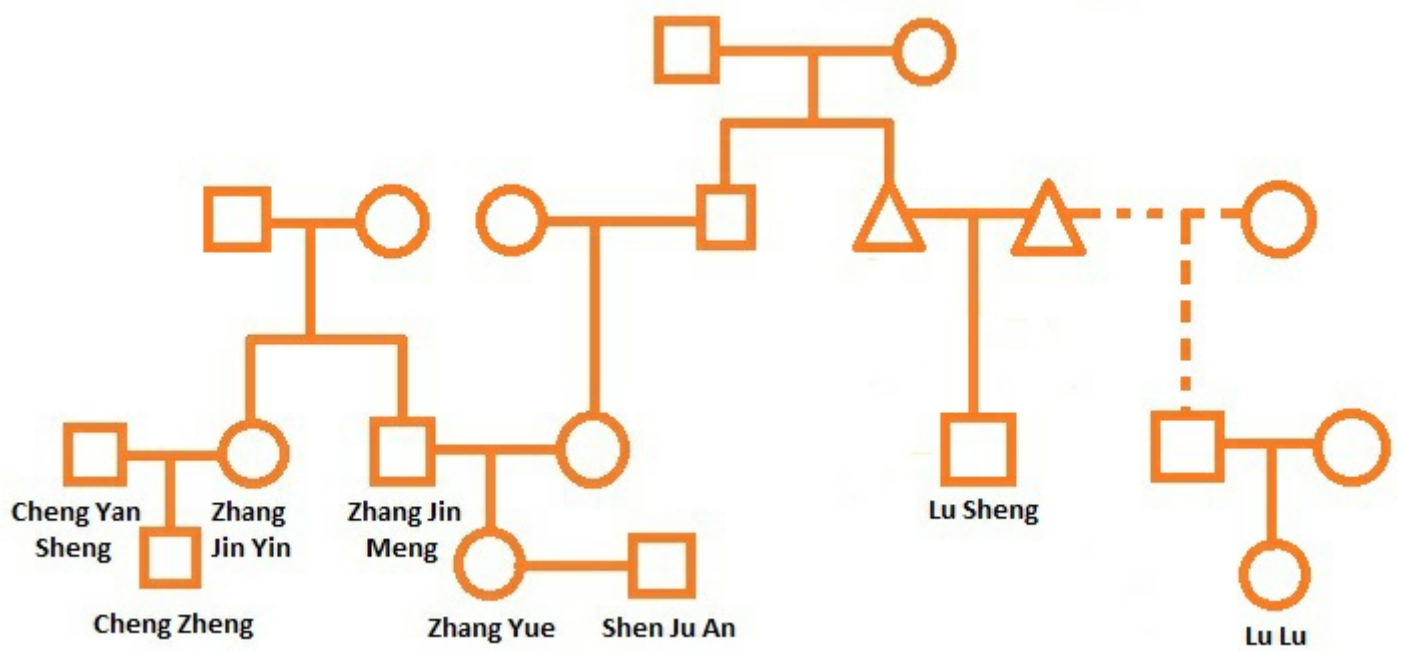
Throughout the journey, both women were deep in thought and even babblemouth Lu Lu was quiet. Yun Jin inferred that Lu Lu was truly spooked from the close shave earlier.

"Are you acquainted with Lu Sheng?" Yun Jin asked. Although it was a brief appearance, she recognized Tai Hua Corporation's Chairman who also happened to be Zhang Yue's mother's paternal cousin.

Lu Lu was unusually reticent. After a long time, she answered with a drained face "He's my uncle."

Yun Jin was taken aback but she did not probe any further. She dropped Lu Lu off at her place and cautioned her to be careful when making her way up. She was just about to reverse when Lu Lu called after her "Sister Su, Cheng Zheng is the person you can't let go of right?"

Yun Jin stamped on the accelerator and sped away without answering.



*A family tree for those whose eyes glazed over at the mention of family ties. Sigh, I'm also unsure what possessed me to draw it in orange but at least it's not too drab?

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 37

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 37

[August 24, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [31 Comments](#)



When old wounds are ripped open, does it matter who hurts more?

Chapter 37

Su Yun Jin. Stop dwelling on it. Don't think of Lu Lu or Zheng Xiao Tong and most definitely not Cheng Zheng. It doesn't matter if you can figure it out or not because any conclusion will make you none the happier. Yun Jin's last conscious thoughts revolved around this before she finally fell asleep from the mental exhaustion.

She was deep asleep when her phone rang. She peered at the time on her screen before answering the call. It was past midnight.

She wasn't in the least bit surprised. If he let her off easy, he wouldn't be Cheng Zheng.

"Yun Jin I'm sorry. Were you sleeping?" he asked.

"Nope. What's up?"

"I just recalled leaving a file in your car this morning. I need it urgently. I was wondering if you could pass it to me now?" There was no hint of apology in his tone.

Yun Jin sighed. "Was it in a yellow folder? When I returned home earlier, I left it with the security guard. If you need it now, go get it from them."

The line fell deathly silent for a long while.

"If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now. Thank you for the meal today." Yun Jin tried her best to be courteous.

Unfortunately, he did not pay any heed to her attempts at being civil as he mused "You must really want to avoid me."

"Cheng Zheng, what's the point of us meeting up still?"

"I don't care. Come down; I have something to tell you."

"Anything that should be said has already been said four years ago ..."

"COME DOWN NOW SU YUN JIN!"

"What do you want to tell me? You don't even know it yourself do you ... I won't be going down. If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now."

"Just you try hanging up."

Yun Jin snapped her flip-phone shut before removing the battery and lying on her bed once again. She was plagued with sleeplessness the entire night.

The next day, Lu Lu didn't show up to work. She called Yun Jin to report sick. After Yun Jin confirmed that it was a minor ailment, she didn't pursue the matter. If she really was Lu Sheng's niece, then this job was of no importance to her. Yun Jin was only worried ... When Lu Lu saw Lu Sheng, the fear and trepidation on her face was apparent. Could there be a sinister reason behind it? In this huge world, how many people truly possessed a clean past? More often than not, people had a dark secret past they didn't want dredged up.

She decided to call Yu Hua from her office. Lucky for her, it was Yu Hua's day off.

"Previously didn't you mention your hospital had a few outstanding bachelors?"

If it's convenient, isn't it about time you introduced one to me?" Yun Jin decided that beginning a new relationship, a new life, would help her move forward and escape the clutches of her "neighbour".

Yu Hua had been on call the night before so she had the raspy voice of a groggy person "Have you thought it through?"

"Don't you always say if one was determined to forget, one needed to start afresh? I must bury the memories completely, and as fast as possible."

Yu Hua was an efficient person. Within half a month, she arranged for Yun Jin to meet him in a formal setting. Although it was a little rushed, the other party had good qualifications. He was just over thirty and had clean features and was also one of the best in his specialty. In addition, he had a sense of humour. Even though Yun Jin had not carried high hopes, she couldn't help but admit that Dr Wu was a decent candidate.

It was hard to believe that a man like Dr Wu was still single. One contributing factor was his studies occupying much of his attention in his undergraduate years. Another point was people who possessed good qualifications demanded as much from their prospective match.

Actually Dr Wu had been married once. In fact, it was only last year when his wife died in an accident. Even with such a past, Dr Wu had no need to feel troubled about finding another suitable half since he was still a good catch himself.

Su Yun Jin and he were of similar age and there was nothing to criticize about her appearance or temperament. In terms of their social standing, Yun Jin and he were of almost level footing. More importantly, Yun Jin was quiet and elegant. Although sometimes when she bowed her head, he could discern a deep sadness in her eyes, at this age, who could still possess a clean past?

Dr Wu had been practicing for many years now and viewed such matters lightly. All he wanted was someone who was willing to share weal and woe with him and Yun Jin was perfect because she had the exact same criteria. After the two of them met, they went out on a few dates and both felt good vibes about the other. When one was young, they were consumed with desires of wild, unrestrained passion but they would inevitable come to realise that all one really

needed was a companion through the lonely times, someone who tended to you when you were down. This was an apt description of Yun Jin and Dr Wu. Theirs wasn't love but if both hung in there, who could deny their loyalty and affection for the other?

In the month where Yun Jin's and Dr Wu's relationship was slowly taking off, she seldom saw Cheng Zheng. Even his car was seldom seen. On the occasional bump-in, he treated her as he would a stranger.

24th December. It was the Western world's Christmas Eve celebrations. In recent years, China became more and more caught up with the traditions and practices of their Western counterparts. Frankly, they didn't care much for the significance of the special day. A modern man needed such observances as an excuse to gather their loved ones for a reunion. Lovers needed such festivities the most.

This day so happened to be Yun Jin's and Dr Wu's monthsary. The two of them had a pleasant dinner together in which they brought up the interesting moments of their lives. They found to their great delight that they shared many common views; conversing with the other was a huge joy.

After dinner, they caught a movie in the cinema; after all Christmas was the box office's prized festivity as it raked in the dough. Both of them had the same movie in mind – [Confession of Pain](#). The movie flowed very smoothly as it explored the theme of love and murder with an undercurrent of suspense. Ninety minutes flew past and the two exited the theatre. The night had not been wasted.

"It's rare seeing you so serious." Dr Wu teased.

"I didn't expect such a finale." Yun Jin replied.

"That Tony Leung's character would die?"

"No, that's not it. I didn't think he loved her that much."

In the dying moments of the film, Xu Jing Lei's character, Jin Shu Zhen, had a look in her eyes that made Yun Jin tremble. "You never once loved me ..." she had eked out in her dying breath as she stared at her husband. There was no reproach in her voice as she made her statement emotionlessly.

The husband's response, as portrayed by Tony Leung, was to shoot himself squarely within the eyes.

Yun Jin shivered slightly in the breeze.

"Whose heart doesn't hold a troubled past?" Dr Wu said gently. "Yun Jin, are you cold?" he asked as he took off his jacket and placed it over her shoulders.

She hadn't driven that day so he sent her home in his Lexus. There was some distance from the theatre to her place and they enjoyed the lights display along the way. It was a perfect complement to the festive mood.

Upon reaching her lobby, he got off to open her passenger door. Yun Jin slid off his jacket and pressed it into his hands. She had on quite thick clothing but strangely, she still felt cold. She rarely had such moments such as this, when she truly needed someone to rely on.

"Goodnight. I had a wonderful time this evening." She smiled as she bade him goodbye before turning in the direction of the elevator. Every step she took, she could feel the emptiness in her heart gnawing at her.

Ask me to stay, don't leave me alone.

"Yun Jin ..." He called out.

She turned around and felt an impulse to cry. He stood far off in his original place "When you smile, you remind me of someone ..."

Who do I remind him off? His deceased wife? Yun Jin didn't want to clarify it with him. After all this had nothing to do with her.

He took a few steps forward and took her hand in his. "It's the same for me. I feel very comfortable around you ... The night is cold, you should go on up quickly before you fall ill."

He kissed her lightly on her forehead. This was his first time kissing her. His lips were soft and icy. He was just like her; they were both susceptible to the cold.

Did he love the woman who smiled like her? Even if it was love, at the end of the day, he was still searching for a prospective wife just as Yun Jin was searching for a husband.

Yun Jin eventually withdrew from his embrace and continued on. In the end, he

couldn't give her the comfort she sought.

Suddenly she heard the familiar sound of fireworks. Not too far off, the night sky was alight in colours! Many years ago, she had once stood hand-in-hand with him on the balcony to admire a similar scene. To be more accurate, they hadn't been able to view the fireworks back then because the neighbouring tall buildings had obstructed their view. He had merely said it was a great pity. Now the fireworks was right before her eyes but the feelings of bliss had long disappeared.

"Are you disappointed that he didn't ask you to stay?" she had just entered the elevator when she heard Cheng Zheng's taunt.

"Yes, you're absolutely right." She couldn't be bothered to think of appropriate responses anymore.

"And he's the right one for you?" Cheng Zheng continued leaning against the wall as he smiled. "I only fear that he doesn't even know what you want. After all, you want a man. How could that fleeting kiss pacify you? Why do you act all dignified and stop yourself from telling him?"

Yun Jin smiled at this "It's rare that you understand me."

He walked over to her side and his arms lightly encircled her waist as he whispered close to her ear "If a man is all you want, I am willing to step in."

Yun Jin had no energy to flare up at him. "How come you're so free tonight? Don't you have to accompany your girlfriend?"

"Oh don't you worry yourself with that. It's not like you've never been a third party before." His words had just escaped his lips when he kissed her forcefully. Her lips still retained that familiar passion that made her ache.

Yun Jin leaned back slightly so that their lips parted to catch her breath "Even if I am willing to be a mistress, it doesn't mean that I am willing to right the wrongs of the past. Cheng Zheng, it's over between us."

Cheng Zheng caressed her face lightly and asked half-sincerely and half-teasingly "And what if I say I regret it?"

"But I haven't." Yun Jin said slowly as she took his hand off her face.

Somewhere inside, her heart was slowly icing over.

“You’re a selfish and cold woman ... No, you’re not even human!” Cheng Zheng yelled in anguish.

Yun Jin turned around, unwilling to look at him as she tried to control her breathing as her chest started to heave.

“Yun Jin, teach me, how do I love another? And not just one but many others?” Cheng Zheng stood behind her devastated. “Really, I need to know. How do I become as cold-hearted as you?”

Yun Jin’s back was still to him as she said gently “It’s very easy. All feelings of love can disappear if you’ve despaired enough.”

“Despair? It’s been four years. I was so sure I could forget you. I told myself, it’s I who didn’t want you. Without you, I no longer had to agonize over whether you love me or not. Without you, I no longer had to live cautiously everyday in fear of losing you. I didn’t seek you out or contact you and refused to listen to news concerning you. That was until I met you at Left Bank. Actually, I had imagined all sorts of scenarios where our paths would cross again but this had never once crossed my mind ... Su Yun Jin I hate you. And what’s more, I hate myself for simultaneously despising you and being unable to forget you! You have no right to mention despair. Have you experienced giving your all in loving someone only for it to amount to nothing? Have you experienced what it’s like to continue waiting for someone to reappear even though all seems hopeless ...?”

“But you’ve never experienced what it’s like to lose a part of yourself! That night I had been waiting for you to come back. I planned to tell you that we should live well together because I was pregnant ... When I first learned about the child’s existence, I was scared. But then, I slowly become more and more excited because the child was yours too; it was yours and mine! But what was the result of all my waiting? You suggested that we break up and that ... I did not love you.”

Cheng Zheng froze, “Child?” His voice sounded dreamy and distant even in his own ears.

“Yes. I didn’t love you yet I was so cheap as to want to keep the child. We had already broken up and I knew that giving birth in such a circumstance was the

world’s stupidest thing. But I still couldn’t bear to abort the child. Yu Hua said I was mad. Xu Zhi Heng also thought I was insane. Yes, I must have lost my mind to give up the opportunity to go for further training, the one that I had been waiting for for so long, because of the child. It didn’t matter whether the child’s father wanted me or not because no matter what, I was determined to give birth to the child of someone I didn’t love. But Heaven was out to punish me. When I was two months along, I experienced an acute onset of pain that made me go into shock. When I was sent to the hospital I was told it was an ectopic pregnancy. Even when it was only an embryo, it had already died inside me. The doctors had it removed ... I will no longer be able to bear children.”

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 38

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 38

[August 26, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [21 Comments](#)



What does closure demand from each of them?

Chapter 38

“... I will no longer be able to bear children.”

It was complete silence behind her.

Why did she say it? She was already prepared to carry this secret to her grave. He didn't have to know about its existence or the fact that she had struggled through the terrible experience alone ... it felt like falling into a deep abyss where the light became further and further out of reach until it was no more.

Her child, no, their child. It had survived inside her for a few days only. Even though it had wrongly sited itself, causing her to bleed massively, it was still their flesh and blood. An undeniably product of their love. Thus, it was fitting that it followed the fate of its parents' romance – it existed but eventually died because it was a mistake.

But now, she blurted it unexpectedly. She was still that same old girl who tried

hard to plaster on a brave façade although her anger was still easily piqued by Cheng Zheng. He had accused her of not loving him. So many years had passed but she still couldn't break free of the emotional chains the words had placed on her.

Yun Jin didn't know what Cheng Zheng's exact reaction would be although she did know that it would definitely hurt him to his core. This was the lethal poison she carried around in her heart.

Lu Lu was absolutely right; burying a secret within was truly unbearable. Now, she finally had no more secrets but ironically, the gaping hole in her heart had widened despite the great reveal.

Cheng Zheng still hadn't responded. Much time passed before Yun Jin heard a sound likened to sobbing. She looked back and saw Cheng Zheng crouching on the floor with his face buried between his knees. He seemed so vulnerable, like a little child crying.

He had never once cried before her. When they were together, there was once he injured his calf while playing soccer. His tibia had fractured and it looked sickeningly painful. When Yun Jin woke up in the middle of the night to check on him, she saw that his face was contorted in pain and his body was drenched in cold sweat. She had told him "Cheng Zheng, if it's so painful, you should let it out. Crying might make you feel better." He retorted haughtily "I'm not a woman. Crying would be a disgrace to my manhood."

So, even when he suggested they break up and he saw her leave, he never once shed a tear.

Cheng Zheng didn't like children. Most of the time, he seemed an oversized kid himself. At his age, he had yet to fully appreciate his own father's love for him and he never envisioned himself as a father. But when Yun Jin uttered those words, the tears that fell came from within. Nothing could stop the tears from bursting its banks. If their break-up and the resultant four year wait was despair, then his emotion right now was that of heartwrenching grief.

Yun Jin took two steps towards him before stopping. She lowered her gaze. From this angle, she saw a vulnerable Cheng Zheng for the first time. Conversely, she didn't feel like crying. It was actually quite ironic. When she saw him in pain,

her hurt lessened. Apparently, it wasn't only happiness that should be shared, pain had to as well. In fact, her pain could only be shared with him because half of it was rightly his in the first place.

When their paths had crossed once again, she knew the true reason why he constantly shadowed her. He could act distant all he wanted, or say as many hurtful things as he wished but she knew he still loved her. Cheng Zheng would always be transparent to her. She could see right through him – his every joy and sorrow. The only reason why she chose to keep back was because in the four years, she slowly came to realise that while Cheng Zheng was immature, her low self-esteem and cowardice played a significant role in the fracture of their relationship as well. Wasn't bottling her emotions the main reason for their break up?

Both she and Cheng Zheng didn't know how to love the other right. Perhaps if from the start they had met other more appropriate partners, they would probably be enjoying wedded bliss by now. However, they had once made a voluntary choice to be together despite the odds and they had to live with the consequences – their individual darkness had been forced to the surface by the other and their ugliness was laid bare. She was afraid that history would repeat itself.

Meanwhile, familiar neighbours continued to enter and leave the elevator. When they saw the strange sight of two neighbours who supposedly had nothing in common, they exited with a confused expression. Yun Jin could see that Cheng Zheng had grown tired from all the sobbing as he rested his face in his palms and refused to look up. She took a step forward before hesitating. Eventually, she pressed the button that would take her to her floor.

Cheng Zheng sensed that she was leaving him so he slowly got to his feet behind her. His face was tear-stained as he said bitterly "Su Yun Jin. You never liked talking but how could you have kept quiet about such a matter! You're a selfish woman. Why must I always be the one to look for you? Can't you come find me? It's been four years and I've always been in the same place. But what about you? Where were you all this while?"

Yes, where was she? Truth be told, she had never gone far. The only problem was she never dared look back once she left.

The lift door slowly closed and it hid Yun Jin's expression from view.

From that day on, Cheng Zheng disappeared from her world. He had most likely moved out from her district. Yun Jin's life returned to normalcy. Strangely enough, without his hovering, her relationship with Dr Wu also cooled. Dr Wu had called her twice to arrange another date but on both occasions, she had turned him down with a suitable excuse. Eventually they became estranged.

Yu Hua was right. Wasn't this to be expected of relationships today? Everyone was busy; no one had the time for a relationship that didn't hold any promise. It's been said that independent women didn't like being clingy and that was just as well. In this day and age, who couldn't survive without a specific person?

*

Zhou Zi Yi had divorced. Four years ago, while he was in Shanghai, he got roaring drunk in the dead of the night. He sped along the highway and subsequently crashed into the road divider. Not only did his beloved Porsche become mangled like scrap metal, he himself became a ragged puppet. When he was sent to the Intensive Care Unit, his filthy rich parents had sought out the best doctors, the best treatment and the best physiotherapy for him. However, they only stopped by twice to see him. On the other hand, his fiancée would frequently make long distance calls but this did little to change his circumstance.

Initially, all his old classmates went to visit him except for Yu Hua. However, on the sixth day of his hospital admission, she threw aside her practice and gave her mentor a heads-up before flying to Shanghai personally. She didn't care for her mentor's approval; she knew she had to go to him no matter what.

When she was in Shanghai, Yu Hua learned about Yun Jin's matter and she gave her a call. Yun Jin couldn't comprehend Yu Hua's foolishness. The sort of person Zhou Zi Yi was ... Yun Jin would never forget the look on his face when Yu Hua had confessed. Even if she did not bring up the past, Zi Yi had not even bothered keeping in touch with them old classmates all these years. His career and love life were flourishing and he was so smug as he basked in his own glory. Now that he had his downfall, why should the very person he viewed as a monster sacrifice everything selflessly to go to him?

She rankled with injustice for Yu Hua. Sometimes, women were too foolish.

In that manner, Yu Hua took care of Zhou Zi Yi meticulously for two months until he could start walking. Initially, Zhou Zi Yi was embarrassed but he couldn't deny that he needed her. With her professional knowledge and her meticulous care, she was his saving star. He grew to become reliant on her. When he awoke in the middle of the night and did not see her, he would grow anxious. If it wasn't food that she made, he would have no appetite.

However, his injuries eventually healed. On the day of his discharge, his parents, friends, subordinates all came and crowded his room to the brim. He never even noticed when Yu Hua had departed. That night, he had given Yu Hua a call. He said "Yu Hua. Thank you very much. I will never forget this. If one day you should need my help, come hell or high water, I will get it done."

Mo Yu Hua was no fool and she knew that Zhou Zi Yi was a shrewd person. Everything had a price. His "hell or high water" was the value he placed on her. But she didn't need it so she stated clearly in the same conversation "What would I need that requires you to go through hell and high water? Don't think too highly of yourself. I came to Shanghai not because of you but for myself. So, you don't owe me anything." She set him free of his debt. More importantly, she had set herself free.

Half a year after his recovery, she received his wedding invitation. His beautiful fiancée had returned from her studies overbroad. The couple had finally reunited.

Thus Yu Hua replied "Divorce? His marriage had nothing to do with me. Why would his divorce concern me?"

It was easy to pay lip service. Su Yun Jin wanted to comfort her, to tell her that it was okay and that there was no need to act tough in front of her. Why should she delay her departure again? If she didn't do it for the person who "didn't concern her", then who was she doing it for?

*

On the 19th day of the 9th month of the lunar calendar, it was the festival of the Goddess of Mercy.

The majority of the Ling Nan county people were Buddhists. On this special

day, all the believers paid a visit to the temples.

Zheng Xiao Tong wasn't from Ling Nan but she was a Buddhist. Every year during this festival, she would fast before visiting the temple to offer incense. When it was still early, she visited The Temple of The Six Banyan Trees. After offering incense, she donated to the oil fund of the monks to keep the Eternal Fire burning.

When she walked up to the Guan Yin altar, she glanced around. All those who were kneeling and praying in earnest were all pitiful people. If reality went according to people's wishes, who would wish to place all hope in deities whose existence have not been proven? Since young, she was not a smart child so even her wishes were limited. However, comparatively, she still felt she was more blessed than the majority.

The devotees were packed like sardines in the midst of the swirling incense. It wasn't easy identifying anyone in that crowd but somehow, she spotted Su Yun Jin readily. Perhaps it was because while most of the attendees were kneeling, Su Yun Jin was standing. Or perhaps it was because for people as unobservant as herself, it was easy to spot the rare few who left an impression. Without thinking, she walked over.

Zheng Xiao Tong stood quietly behind Su Yun Jin at a respectable distance and stared dully at her. There were too many people milling around, Yun Jin never noticed her presence.

Su Yun Jin had a lithe frame but her back was ramrod straight. From an oblique back view, Xiao Tong could see her pale side profile and long slender neck very clearly. This was the woman that Cheng Zheng had loved since his youth. Zheng Xiao Tong was a bit slow and her thinking was innocent. However, she was no fool. That night, after Su Yun Jin had scurried off with Lu Lu, Cheng Zheng became very restless which was his usual state whenever it was the two of them. After he had sent her home, she sat on her swing and rocked herself for a long time. Suddenly she had an epiphany; he had found the person he had been waiting for.

Was she sad or surprised? In that moment, she had been confused. Perhaps her emotions would always be slow on the uptake. It was just like back when

Cheng Zheng had asked her abruptly “Do you want to be my girlfriend?” Her first response had been to stare back at him dumbfounded.

She liked Cheng Zheng. It wasn't because of her father's good impression of him. Perhaps people with innocent characters were easily attracted to each other; after all, birds of a feather flock together. When she first met him, she felt as if her world brightened whenever Cheng Zheng smiled. Unfortunately, he began to smile less and less; he said he had lost the most valuable thing in his life. Her world darkened accordingly.

In Cheng Zheng's darkest hour, she had been there with him every step of the way. He said he wanted to learn Go, so she taught him. He was smart and mastered the game quickly. Initially, she gave him a five move handicap, but eventually, the master was defeated by the student. When he won, he stared at the board heartbroken. Back then, she didn't understand it. It turned out that he was waiting for someone he believed he would never see again. She personally didn't mind being with him and attempting to fill the gaping hole in his heart as long as he would smile radiantly once again.

There had been one occasion when the two of them had given themselves to their lust. One late night in his apartment, he was playing Go online when she wrapped herself around him from behind with her breath lightly grazing his neck. His head whipped around at the sensation. It was rather dim and he stared at her in a trance. Before she could process what was happening, she was already pinned under Cheng Zheng on the couch. Her heart had thumped so hard she swore it was going to leap out her chest. Despite how dense she usually was, she knew exactly what was happening ... and she welcomed this foreign thrilling sensation as his lips and hands travelled all over.

Just as they were almost undressed, she heard Cheng Zheng mumble “It can't be ...” She was so worried she asked “What's wrong?”

Cheng Zheng shivered as though he had been caught in a hailstorm and his actions halted. He looked at her with an unfamiliar expression in his eyes – there was none of the passion he had possessed just a short while ago. He studied her for a long time before closing his eyes and kissing her with wild abandonment once again. But before long, he rolled off her wearily. He stared at the ceiling in despair “Why can't I?”

Xiao Tong wanted to tell him then that she didn't care much for the pleasures of the flesh; she sincerely enjoyed being with him. She couldn't recall if she did make that confession ultimately but based on his emotional state that night, she knew nothing would have gone in.

That night she saw it. It was an odd pendant that was strung on a thin silver chain. It shimmered a faint blue on his chest.

They never had such physical contact again.

Although Cheng Zheng never said much to her, he treated her very well. She had never seen the version of him that spoke maliciously. Perhaps, some of him was only reserved for Yun Jin.

She continued to stare at Su Yun Jin in this manner. Many rounds of people had come and gone but Su Yun Jin still remained rooted to the spot. Xiao Tong had seen her planting a single joss-stick before standing there lost in thought. When the incense finally burned completely, Xiao Tong could fairly make out "... I was the one who went back on my promise. If there should be retribution, let it fall solely on me."

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 39

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 39

[August 28, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [14 Comments](#)

522670841_2083616

Try as they might, none of them can escape their past.

Once again, kudos to Peanuts for finding such an apt picture!

Chapter 39

After praying, Yun Jin stuck her joss stick in the urn. When she turned round, she was shocked to see Zheng Xiao Tong staring woodily at her.

“... Hi, here to offer incense too? ... Are you by yourself?”

Xiao Tong nodded. Try as she might, she couldn't think of anything to say.

Yun Jin smiled at her as she tried to end this chance encounter. She walked off to the side to donate to the oil fund started by the monks to keep the lamps alight continuously. Xiao Tong hesitated before following her. Although she

didn't yet know what to say, she felt compelled to force out something, anything.

Sensing that Zheng Xiao Tong was still behind her, Yun Jin looked at her confused. "Can I help you?" Zheng Xiao Tong and her were merely acquaintance at best. Without Cheng Zheng in the equation, they weren't even close enough to nod at each other in passing.

"You ... have also lighted the Eternal Fire? Are you making a wish?" Zheng Xiao Tong asked earnestly.

Yun Jin smiled but made no reply.

"Who did you light it for?" This question was rather abrupt but Zheng Xiao Tong did not sense her impropriety. She merely wanted to know so she thought she would just make her query upfront.

"For a relative; one who's passed away." Yun Jin turned around to face her; she wanted to hear what Xiao Tong had to say to her.

"Oh ..." Xiao Tong hadn't expected that answer and she looked apologetic. "Cheng Zheng also has one lighted. He says it's a wish but I don't know what it's about. Do you happen to know?"

Yun Jin had to re-evaluate this mousy girl who perpetually wore a blank look; it turned out that she was in the know after all.

"I'm sorry I don't ... If there's nothing else, I best be off." She had no intention of interacting with Zheng Xiao Tong any further.

"Wait!" Zheng Xiao Tong grabbed her sleeves frantically. "Could you tell me ... Where Cheng Zheng is right now?"

She asked her for Cheng Zheng's location? Yun Jin was mystified. "*You're* his girlfriend. Why do you ask me for his whereabouts?"

"I thought you would know."

"I'm sorry I don't."

This was a strange conversation.

When Yun Jin made a move to leave once again, Zheng Xiao Tong tossed out "I

was the one who accompanied him through his darkest period.”

But Yun Jin understood her immediately. She turned back to look Zheng Xiao Tong straight in the eyes – her angelic and innocent eyes. So angels also had desires and people they couldn’t let go off.

“When you were with him ... were you happy?” Yun Jin asked.

“Yes.” She nodded sincerely.

“You were with him when he was at his lowest but in the process, you were happy. Isn’t that a fair exchange?”

Zheng Xiao Tong didn’t understand though she continued to maintain eye contact “But you were the one who made him sad.”

Yun Jin pursed her lips tightly before replying “I think there’s something you have to get right. You and I have nothing in common apart from Cheng Zheng. We are practically strangers. What is between the two of you is your business. Similarly, my past with Cheng Zheng is none of your concern ... Goodbye.” She removed the hand that Zheng Xiao Tong used to clutch at her clothes before walking away hurriedly. She didn’t need to see another of her troubled looks.

“... Cheng Zheng also has one lighted. He says it’s a wish but I don’t know what it’s about. Do you happen to know?”

She truly didn’t.

Yun Jin was halfway home when she abruptly made a u-turn and sped back to the temple.

By the time she reached the temple once again, Zheng Xiao Tong was no longer there. But it didn’t matter anyhow because Yun Jin’s purpose was not about finding her. She half-ran to the Goddess of Mercy altar. People who came to pray were still numerous but as she stood there, she could almost relive the summer eight years ago. Back then in the empty temple, she, Cheng Zheng and Shen Ju An had been in the same spot, kneeling before the deity to make their wishes.

There could be no mistake about it; this was the very same spot. The altar had quite a few books of records. She flipped through each of them diligently but the

records of wishes dating to eight years ago were no longer there. At that moment, a monk happened to pass by so Yun Jin rushed up to him to ask for help. However, the young monk shook his head. Yun Jin was frantic; she placed her palms together in a pleading motion and stuffed a handsome donation in his hands. At this, the monk went to the backyard. Ten minutes later, a much older monk emerged carrying a thick book of records.

Yun Jin went up to receive it eagerly; the thick layer of dust didn't bother her in the least. With haste, she quickly located her familiar penmanship – A simple life. Right after her wish was another set of penmanship. This was what she was seeking.

That person only wrote two words: Yun Jin.

Yun Jin closed the book of records and slowly stood up. She could hear a bell toll somewhere in the temple as she stared at the statue of the Goddess of Mercy who wore her typical look of compassion before shutting her eyes.

*

The next day, Lu Lu snuck into Yun Jin's office in a suspicious manner and passed her a letter wordlessly. Yun Jin opened the envelope to see a letter of resignation. She placed the letter calmly on the table before taking a good long look at Lu Lu who was wearing shades indoors.

This child, can't she behave more normally?

"Surely you must have a reason?" Yun Jin continued to train her eyes on her.

"Haha! I was afraid I'll scare you with my reason. Since I was very young, I've always dreamt of touring the whole world and seeing all the handsome foreigners out there. To be perfectly honest, I've been saving up since I was six. With last month's pay, I finally have enough capital to do so. If I don't go now, then when?"

Lu Lu let out exaggerated laughter.

Yun Jin looked at her quizzically "Even if you want to covertly ogle at handsome men, you don't have to wear sunglasses everywhere do you?"

"Oh you won't understand this. Do you recognize it? This is the latest pair of

shades the fashion magazines have been fawning over ... Hey what are you doing?"

Yun Jin had no interest in her chattering as she suddenly lunged forward to whip off Lu Lu's shades when she least expected it. Lu Lu tried to hide it with her hands but she was too late.

Without the shades, Lu Lu's peri-orbital bruises and wounds were unveiled.

"Can you explain this?" Yun Jin was horrified.

"Hee Hee. You still found out about my embarrassing state after all. I fell while showering yesterday." Lu Lu continued to smile.

Yun Jin didn't care about Lu Lu's rights or resistance as she gently pulled down her turtleneck sweater. She drew in her breath sharply at the sight before quickly lowering all the blinds in her office. She wanted to drag Lu Lu to a corner but when her hand gripped onto Lu Lu's arm, Lu Lu squealed in pain. Lu Lu stopped resisting and allowed Yun Jin to roll up her sleeves. Thankfully Yun Jin was already mentally prepared else she wouldn't have been able to stomach the sight. As it was, she was so taken aback that she forgot to breathe; Lu Lu's fair skin was covered in bruises and wounds of all sizes. Some were old scars but many more were new cuts and scratches. Yun Jin could easily tell that the vicious attacker had done so with full intent. The wounds even extended to beneath her undergarments.

"You attribute *these* to a fall?? ... Who did it? Tell me Lu Lu!" Yun Jin had always looked upon Lu Lu as a younger sister and her heart ached at the obvious abuse.

Lu Lu gently tugged down her clothes. "Don't ask any further Sister Su, I beg you." Finally, she was no longer smiling.

Yun Jin retracted her hands. "You still won't say despite all this? Who could be so twisted? ... Could it be ... Lu Sheng?" Suddenly, the memory of Lu Lu's wide-eyed trepidation upon seeing Lu Sheng at Left Bank resurfaced.

At Lu Lu's instinctive cowering, Yun Jin knew she was right. Yun Jin thought back to all the moments when she had met Lu Sheng personally in business settings and even his appearance in the news. Such a gentlemanly appearance ...

Who knew he was such a monster in private?

“Is he even human? Come with me.” Yun Jin gingerly placed Lu Lu’s shades back on before attempting to lead her outside.

“Where are we heading?” Lu Lu struggled in Yun Jin’s grip.

“To the hospital ... and to the police.” Yun Jin was rarely worked up but in that moment, she felt something stuck in her throat.

Lu Lu managed to wriggle free. “It’s no use Sister Su. Don’t worry about me; I’ve been tending to my wounds. As for him, he’s not in a better state than I am. If you truly wish me well, then please act like you don’t know anything.”

Yun Jin studied her. Was this the same old Lu Lu? The Lu Lu who was always bubbly?

Eventually, Lu Lu left. Yun Jin sat in her office in a daze. Not much time had passed before a phone rung; it wasn’t the office’s line.

Yun Jin answered her handphone. The other party spoke for less than three minutes but Yun Jin knew immediately – her retribution had arrived.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 40

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 40

[August 30, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [26 Comments](#)



How much can a person take before she breaks?

Chapter 40

Yun Jin made a quick stop at the Human Resource department before heading to Xu Zhi Heng's office to complete the necessary paperwork. Ever since her hospitalisation four years earlier, she had yet to utilise any public holiday or annual leave so Xu Zhi Heng gave her a generous fifteen day leave readily.

Just as she was about to leave his office, he asked in genuine concern "Yun Jin is everything alright? If you need any help, please feel free to ask."

Yun Jin laid her hand on the handle and forced a smile "Thank you for approving my leave."

She took the midnight flight back to her hometown. When Yun Jin alighted, she made a beeline for the provincial hospital. When she neared the ward, she noticed her uncle immediately; he looked as though he had aged overnight.

“Yun Jin, you’re finally back ...” he only managed to choke out that much before breaking into heaving sobs.

“What’s the situation like?” She couldn’t even recognize her own voice at this point.

“The doctor said it’s a relapse and that the cancerous cells have metastasized to the other organs. It’s now end-stage cancer; chemotherapy won’t be of any help.”

She should have guessed as much. In the recent years, her mother had been feeling unwell intermittently. Yun Jin often encouraged her to go for a check-up but her mother had steadfastly refused – her reasoning was even if the cancer didn’t kill her, the anxiety would so she would rather remain in oblivion. Her mother said bravely that she was grateful for every new day she was able to live. Perhaps, deep down, her mother had already suspected her condition had worsened.

Yun Jin pushed the door open to enter the ward; her hand was just as cold as the metal handle.

She wanted desperately for someone to tell her that she had entered the wrong room. Who was this cachectic, white-haired woman? How could it be her beautiful mother? Yun Jin sat at her bedside and bit down hard on her quivering lip to stop herself from crying.

“Mom ...” she couldn’t help but call out softly although she was afraid of waking up the other sleeping patients.

Her mother opened her eyes slowly. When she saw it was Yun Jin, her bleary eyes flashed with joy before turning into sorrow.

“Yun Jin ... You’re here ... You’ve come at the right time, I just dreamt of your dad. He was confronting me ... He reminded me that I once promised to spend my life only with him ... Yun Jin, he was upset with me ...”

Yun Jin wanted to hold her mother’s hand in hers but she was thwarted by the many plugs and tubings. Her voice trembled as she replied “Daddy wouldn’t blame you, he won’t ... Doctor, Doctor! ...” Her mother’s face suddenly contorted in pain so Yun Jin yelled towards the door. Her uncle and the doctor rushed in

together but they were soon ushered outside.

Not much time had gone by but to Yun Jin and her uncle who were waiting outside, it had felt like an eternity.

When the doctor emerged, Yun Jin rushed forward “Doctor, how’s my mother?”

“I’m not optimistic about the patient’s condition. You should be mentally prepared.”

“Save her. Please, I beg you. No matter the cost, please save her.” Yun Jin choked out as she pleaded earnestly.

“Be rest assured, we will try our best for every patient.” The doctor was expressionless as he gave his standard, professional reply. Yun Jin watched the doctor depart before suddenly collapsing onto a seat. Indeed, to every patient’s kith and kin, the sick person lying in the ward was a loved one. However, to a doctor, it was just another patient.

“Uncle, you should go home and rest. I’ll be here.” Yun Jin wiped her face with her hand and forced herself to calm down. Uncle was already reduced into a sobbing mess, she couldn’t collapse too. No, she had to hang in there cause only then could she give her mother the best care.

The subsequent days were a nightmare. Her mother was warded in a three-bedded room. There was a shortage of beds so relatives of patients could only sleep on the long benches outside the wards. In the end, Yun Jin gave the doctor a generous tip which led to the nurses erecting a simple foldable bed by her mother’s bedside. In this manner, she and her uncle took alternate turns at spending the night in the hospital.

The other patients in the same ward were also terminally ill. The patient in the nearest bed was diagnosed with end-stage liver cancer which had acted up the night before causing him to moan relentlessly throughout the night. Her mother found it difficult to fall asleep and she woke up at the slightest sound. Her rest was disturbed at night due to the sick neighbour and it was no better in the day due to the endless stream of visitors. A good sleep was now a luxury. Her condition was fast going downhill.

That wasn't even the worst thing. The patient nearest the window, who had been worst off amongst the three, had breathed his last. Her mother had been woken up in the middle of the night by the loud sobbing of the relatives and had witnessed the patient's body being wheeled out on a gurney under a white sheet. She clutched at Yun Jin fearfully till the tips of her fingers turned white and her nails dug into Yun Jin's flesh. But by the second day, another terminally ill patient had already taken up the previous spot.

Once again, Yun Jin pleaded desperately with the doctor. She was willing to fork out any sum to get her mother admitted into a single room. She had even tipped the doctor generously many occasions but she always received the same reply that he couldn't help the current situation. Her mother was deteriorating by the day. Now, she was mostly delirious and would chatter nonsense. She was also unable to keep any food down as she vomited any food ingested. Even the nurses were shaking their heads at her state.

Yun Jin stayed by her mother's side all day and she hated herself for being so useless. She was about to lose all hope when the consultant suddenly informed her that the hospital had just discharged a patient and so a single room was now vacant and available. Yun Jin was overjoyed. Together with her uncle, they helped to transfer her mother to the other room the very same day.

Although a change in environment did not improve her mother's condition but it couldn't be denied that at the very least, it was much cleaner. On the ninth day of Yun Jin's return, her mother's mental state suddenly improved in the new room. She was exceptionally alert and no longer jabbered incoherently. Even her eyes were clearer and brighter. She was heartbroken at the sight of her daughter's fatigued appearance and she struggled to say "Yun Jin, it's been hard on you ..."

At that, Yun Jin's tears welled up though she forced herself to keep them in as she nodded continuously. Her mother then closed her eyes and spoke almost in a whisper "I've thought it through. It's all good now. I've seen your dad, he's coming to get me ... Down there, your father is waiting for me. Up here, your uncle is crying for me. I am content ..."

That night, at five in the morning, her mother breathed her last. Yun Jin discovered her mother's hand was particularly cool before uncle dragged her

away. She stood in the corridor as she watched the nurses wheel her mother away covered in the white sheet. She wanted to chase after them but her legs were heavy as lead. She gripped the edges of the benches for support as she slowly squatted. She could hear the noise from the wheels getting further and fainter until it was no more ...

She didn't know how long she had been in that position but morning gradually dawned. Eventually, people came to speak to her but whatever was said, she could neither hear it nor remember it. All she wanted was to curl up in this position alone forever.

Even when a pair of arms rested on her shoulders, she didn't look up. That person was unlike the others who left after a while. That person also lowered himself and held her foetal-like position in his embrace. She remembered this familiar embrace. She allowed that person to support her full body weight. Eventually she heard him say gently "Yun Jin, let it out."

In the four years she had never once cried. Even when the doctor had personally told her the child was no more and there would never be another child, she had not cried. While caring for her mother over this period, no matter how tough it was on her physically and emotionally, she had kept her tears in. Why had she been so stoical and independent when all she really wanted was a set of shoulders to cry on?

She turned her head and buried her face in the curve of his neck. Initially she wept silently but eventually she was sobbing loudly "I no longer have a mother. I've lost my father and my child. I have nothing left. This is Heaven's punishment for me. Everyone I love has left me!"

"But I won't," Cheng Zheng responded as he patted her back reassuringly "Even though I'm unsure if you still love me."

Yun Jin didn't reply as she continued to weep.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 41

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 41

[September 1, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [18 Comments](#)



Can happier moments

follow in the wake of tragedy?

Today is also day one of our YASH finale week. Are you ready for its conclusion?

Chapter 41

Yun Jin continued to stumble in the desert. There was sand all around her and it seemed to go on forever. The heat was so unbearable that she felt she would turn into ash at any moment. She was also parched and her head hurt. She didn't want to continue forth any longer and would much rather transform into a cactus. But something in the distance was calling out to her so she had to plod on ...

"Cheng Zheng ... Get me some water ..." Yun Jin uttered subconsciously as she slowly came. She was only half-awake. Then, she smiled bitterly as she touched her cracked lips which elicited a stabbing pain. She was mistaken; it was no longer back in the past when the two of them lived and breathed the same air. Why would that person be present to pour water for her? The name had come

to her so naturally. Even worse, she was conjuring up his image lying next to her.

As she was trying to support herself and her heavy head up, a glass of cold water was thrust into her hands forcefully.

“You’re such a princess. The moment you’re awake, you’re ordering people around.” Such annoying jabs could only come from him.

Yun Jin stared at him for a few seconds as her memories played back slowly. Yes, it was in the hospital when she and her uncle had just sent her mother off. When the nurses pushed her mother’s body away, she had crouched in that position till the day slowly brightened. Then he appeared and said “Yun Jin, let it out.” She had actually laid in his embrace and sobbed till all her energy was spent. She had once again been thrown into the familiar abyss of grief of losing a loved one.

The person she was staring at unwaveringly started to feel uncomfortable “Has your brain been fried? Why are you ... you staring at me?”

Yun Jin was in no mood to tease him at his sudden stuttering. She looked around the room and enquired “Where am I?”

“My place.” He answered so readily as though there was nothing strange about it.

“Which of your homes is this?” Yun Jin wrinkled her forehead slightly.

Cheng Zheng stared at the ceiling before answering “I’m not an orphan. I only have one set of parents and one home.”

Yun Jin’s response was to flip herself off the bed immediately despite how weak she was.

“My house isn’t haunted. What are you frightened of?” Cheng Zheng said huffily as he reached out to support her.

Yun Jin sighed “I have to get to the hospital. My mom just passed away; there’s a million and one things for me to see too ... Oh right ... Where’s my uncle?”

“Oh so *now* you remember about your mom after sleeping so soundly for one whole day. If it were left to you, it would have been too late. You can relax, your uncle has seen to all the administrative details. As for your mom ... according to

your uncle's wishes, he'd like to cremate the body in the provincial crematorium. He'll see to the rest after returning to the county." She didn't know if he was sparing a thought for her feelings over her mother's demise, but his tone became gentler towards the end.

Yun Jin lowered her gaze; so she had been asleep for that long. Now that she was awake, she felt acutely that her mother had truly left her forever.

"Where is uncle now?" she asked again.

"He went home first. You were nursing a high fever and even stayed in the hospital for half a day. Seeing that you were otherwise okay apart from being unconscious, I decided to bring you to my place to rest."

Yun Jin combed through her hair with her fingers "Oh I see. Thank you. I think I better head back first. It might not look too good if your parents were to return and see me."

Cheng Zheng's tone became sharp as he snapped back "I'm not even afraid so what are you worried about? It's not like you've never seen my parents before. Would they gobble you up?"

Upon seeing Yun Jin getting up to hunt for her shoes as she ignored him, he added on helplessly "They're not at home anyway."

"No matter what, I should still rush back. Uncle must surely be tired." Yun Jin tried hard to prevent Cheng Zheng from misunderstanding her intentions.

"Then you should at least eat before going. I'll send you back later." His tone was hard and it hinted that he would not take no for an answer.

Yun Jin didn't argue with him any further. Truth be told, as she was getting off the bed, she felt her stomach grumble. There was absolutely no need to be harsh on her body and deprive herself of sustenance.

When she was getting up, she had quickly surveyed the room. Despite having known him for such a long time, this was her first time in this room. One could easily tell this was a boy's room – the furnishing was simple but well thought out. It was also very clean. Actually, Cheng Zheng wasn't very fussy; as long as his living environment was comfortable and clean, he was satisfied. The rest was not important. So even back when the two of them were living in that snail's shell, it

had been a blissful period to him.

Cheng Zheng passed her some medication which she swallowed obediently with the aid of the water he gave earlier. Then, she followed him out the room only to see that dishes had already been laid out on the dining table. Cheng Zheng was the first to sit as he emphasised “To give you a head-ups, Auntie Chen has returned to her hometown so these dishes are takeaway fare. Just eat what’s here okay?”

Yun Jin was not as particular about food as he was so she nodded at his request as she sat down opposite him. The memory of them dining together like this was so distant that it felt like it belonged in another lifetime.

Yun Jin picked up some vegetables with her chopsticks and ate it without hesitation only for a bitter taste to fill her mouth. She forced herself to swallow. She ate another mouthful just to be sure that her mood wasn’t affecting her sense of taste. She wanted to say something but eventually decided against it as she directed her chopsticks at another dish she couldn’t identify. She chewed at it before quickly taking a spoonful of soup. This time, she didn’t hold back and she sighed loudly before placing her utensils on the table and staring at Cheng Zheng. This fellow hadn’t even touched the food and was staring at her strangely.

“Cheng Zheng, where did you order this takeaway from?”

“From the Si Chuan restaurant below. How is it?” He had answered too quickly, as though he had anticipated her query.

“Have you ever offended their boss or chef?”

“I’m not crazy, why would I do that? Is the food horrible?”

“Very.” It was rare that Yun Jin was so forthright. Cheng Zheng took a bite himself before cursing softly under his breath.

“Can I take it that you are the Si Chuan chef?” Yun Jin asked calmly.

Cheng Zheng’s face immediately turned a bright beetroot as he placed his chopsticks down at lightning speed before grabbing the bowl of soup in her hands. He said hurriedly “If it’s so horrible, forget it. I’ll go down and buy again.” Having said that, he fled to his room to get his keys.

Yun Jin saw his frazzled state and said slowly in a low voice “Cheng Zheng, why do this to yourself?”

He froze with his back to her “This is my business.”

Yun Jin also stood up “Actually, what I meant to say is ... I’m really happy.”

Cheng Zheng turned around slowly “That ... actually it was the recipe’s fault. I swear I adhered strictly to its directions ...”

“Are there any remaining ingredients in the kitchen? I think I better prepare the meal instead.”

Cheng Zheng gestured towards the kitchen and nodded his head furiously.

Yun Jin busied herself in the kitchen as Cheng Zheng leaned against the door frame and studied her wordlessly. The memories were slowly rushing back.

Yun Jin cracked an egg into the pot before sensing a pair of hands had quietly encircled her waist and she felt his warm breath on her cheek.

“Let go Cheng Zheng.”

“That’s not possible.”

Yun Jin was silent. It seemed from the moment they met each other, they had been repeating the same refrain: *Cheng Zheng let go.... No I won’t...*

But when he did let her go, she had hurt more than she had ever experienced in life.

“I don’t care what your reasons are. I will never let you go again.” His muffled voice came from behind her shoulders.

“But if you don’t let go ... the eggs will be burnt. Aren’t you hungry?” Yun Jin smiled weakly.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 42

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 42

[September 3, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [11 Comments](#)



As we barrel towards our conclusion, our leads have more than a conversation. But will it be part two of happy moments or a foreboding of the end?

Chapter 42

“But if you don’t let go ... the eggs will be burnt. Aren’t you hungry?”

“Of course I am. But it’s not eggs that I’m hungry for ...” His lips were roaming all over her ear.

“Don’t.” She turned her face away.

Cheng Zheng mumbled confused “Why not? Do you ... still not want me?”

Yun Jin turned off the stove before turning to face him. “If I said I didn’t, I would be lying. I’m only human. But honestly Cheng Zheng, if all you want is a night of passion, that I can give you. If we could bridge our differences, we wouldn’t have come to this.”

“I’m not some lecherous person. I’m only like this because it’s you. Why don’t you understand?” Cheng Zheng furrowed his brow.

Yun Jin smiled “Don’t forget, it’s been four years. We are no longer the same people we once were. At the very least, there’s also Zheng Xiao Tong.”

Cheng Zheng grew quiet. Just as Yun Jin thought he would never reply, he said “Yun Jin. I’m also only human. There will come a day when I’m tired too. All along, I thought I would never be able to hold you like this again. Xiao Tong ... she has been a faithful companion.”

“All the more reason why you shouldn’t be like this isn’t it?”

“Maybe you won’t believe the sort of person Xiao Tong is. Many people think she’s naive. True, she is very innocent and is truly kind. That day, she found me and told me she met you at the temple. Only then did I discover she knew who you were all along. Even then, she encouraged me to go after you. Can you believe this Su Yun Jin? A person as selfish, difficult, cold-hearted and stubborn as you, can you accept that such kind people exist? ... As compared to you, she is an angel.”

When he saw that he had successfully elicited a downcast expression from Yun Jin, he laughed at the absurdity of it all “But I just can’t seem to love that angel.”

Yun Jin bowed her head silently.

Cheng Zheng gently lifted her chin “Don’t talk to me about guilt. After all, love is never a fair game. I admit I’ve let her down but if I were to continue being with her, I would also be failing her. I hate dragging my feet over such stuff. If one person has to be disappointed, then it has to be her because I simply can’t let you go. Tell me, aren’t we both equally selfish?”

Yun Jin removed his hand from her chin which he then used to envelope her and pull her towards him.

“What else do you have to say? How long more do you want to torture me?”

“Don’t be like this.” Yun Jin struggled to create some distance between them.

“I’ll let go only if you tell me you don’t love me. Say it Su Yun Jin. Look me in the eye and tell me you don’t love me ...”

Just as Yun Jin opened her mouth to reply, he lunged forward to kiss her. His lust ignited, he skilfully tore off her clothes before undoing his own. Then, she spotted it. The sight of the unmistakable aquamarine stabbed her in the heart.

“So it’s been with you.”

Cheng Zheng grabbed her hands and placed one on the pendent and the other on his chest “You said you would never lose it! You promised!”

Yun Jin clutched the pendent tightly as she closed her eyes and wept.

The two of them moved from the kitchen to the bedroom. Cheng Zheng’s every move took her breath away. He had once thought this scene could only be relived in his dreams. Now, his suppressed desires finally had a satisfactory outlet.

“Tell me if you love me or not. Say it! Say it ... I want you to tell me personally ...”

Eventually he sighed “Actually you do love me ...”

After that bout of passion, the two of them cuddled quietly. When their perspiration had dried off, Yun Jin asked “Cheng Zheng, are you asleep? Can we talk?”

“Yeah?” Cheng Zheng answered blearily.

The two of them had known each other for eleven years now and they had spent three of those years as a couple. They were each other’s firsts but they never once had a serious discussion about the future nor asked what the other really wanted.

“When the child was two months old, I suddenly experienced intense pain. Actually, even before my massive bleeding, I already feared losing it. It was the final thing on earth that linked you to me; I couldn’t lose it. As long as it was okay, I would even give my life ... But I couldn’t protect it in the end. The surgery had a complication. Later on the doctor told me I would never have children again. As I lay in the hospital, I was consumed with hatred for you ... because I didn’t know who else I should blame. I needed a stronger emotion to cover up my despair. So I swore, I would never wait for you. I would forget you. But, when I saw you again, I started to forget my promise. Don’t you see, my punishment

has come. Every important person in my life, I couldn't keep any one of them."

Cheng Zheng raised his head to look at her "What rubbish! If I was the one who caused you to turn back on your promise then shouldn't the punishment fall on me? You say you can't keep anyone by your side ... Well I will never leave you unless I'm dead."

Yun Jin burst into laughter "You're still as nonsensical as ever. Cheng Zheng, I'm an exceptionally terrible person. I thought I knew what I wanted but I keep finding that I was wrong."

"No one said we couldn't turn back the time. Yun Jin, let's start over."

"Start over?" Yun Jin appeared lost in thought "Four years ago, we loved each other so deeply yet what was the result? What more now ..."

"But back then, you didn't make me feel secure. From the moment I laid eyes on you, I was always chasing and you were always fleeing. I was too anxious and you were too sensitive ... I never knew how to treat you." He flipped over and looked her straight in the eye "I'm a simple-minded person; my love needs a guarantee."

Yun Jin reached out to the pendent dangling around his neck "It's not worth it. I'm nowhere near perfect."

Cheng Zheng studied her in an exaggerated manner "How are you not perfect? I think you have everything a woman should have."

When he saw that she wasn't laughing, he sensed that his joke wasn't very funny.

"If we are destined not to have children, then let us keep each other company for eternity."

He buried his face in her chest as he continued to speak "Take me as your child and love only me ..."

Cheng Zheng fell into a deep sleep from the fatigue. Suddenly, he sensed someone pinching his face and he yelped. His instincts told him it was Yun Jin and he flipped over to hug her as he drawled "If you continue pinching, I'll bite."

His hand landed on air before a searing pain shot through his ear. He heard a

voice reminiscent of his mother “You horrible child. It wasn’t easy to arrange to come home. What are you dreaming of in the bright early morning? How dare you threaten to bite your mother.”

Cheng Zheng shot up and saw Zhang Jin Yin arching her brows as her hand continued to grip his ear firmly. Yun Jin was no longer there. He swatted her hand away before pulling the blanket over himself. He turned a bright beetroot as he whined “How can you enter without knocking?”

Zhang Jin Yin scoffed “The door could be broken down and you wouldn’t even know it. Still trying to hide? What have I not seen before? Tell me, what are you doing sleeping in the buff in the day?”

At this, Cheng Zheng’s worries dissipated; it appeared that his mother hadn’t seen Yun Jin. He was nonchalant about being caught in the act but he knew Yun Jin would have died from embarrassment.

“I was feeling hot. Why, can’t I have the freedom to do so?” Without any remnant fear, he snapped cheekily at his mother.

Zhang Jin Yin smirked as she left his room “It’s in the dead of winter. Even if you’re feeling warm, you shouldn’t sleep naked.”

Cheng Zheng glanced at the clock as he dressed hurriedly. He had been asleep for approximately three hours.

Where is she? Why did she leave without saying goodbye?

As he was buttoning, he felt something amiss. He looked down; the aquamarine pendent that had accompanied him the past four years was gone.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 43 (Final)

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 43 [FINAL]

[September 5, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [33 Comments](#)



You're still written in the scars on my heart.

We're not broken, just bent. Can we learn to love again?

We began this story exactly two months ago to the date so I thought it fitting to publish the final chapter today. The long epilogue will be coming out this weekend so do stay tuned. Did I mention its monstrous length?

Chapter 43

Yun Jin returned to her home in the county. Her mother's arrangements had been more or less attended to. They didn't have many relatives but now that her mother had departed from the world, what did it matter if the funeral was grand or not?

Uncle observed that Yun Jin was not holding up too well and he advised her to rest while he sees to the funeral arrangements. He was absolutely right – Yun Jin

was truly weary.

The eve of the funeral, she suddenly thought of some important matters she had to discuss with uncle. He was in the kitchen making a phone call. Yun Jin was wearing home slippers and even when she entered the kitchen, he did not notice her presence.

Uncle was a simple and straightforward man who usually answered his calls in the living room. Most of the time, Yun Jin could make out eighty percent of the conversation. However, here he was speaking in a low voice in a corner. Yun Jin found it highly unusual.

“... Yes, the arrangements are almost complete ... No no I still have to thank you ... Back in the hospital, if it weren't for you ... She's holding up well ... She doesn't know ... That child is just so stubborn ...”

Yun Jin quietly retreated to her bedroom. She knew who was on the other end instinctively. After all these years, she still needed his timely assistance. He had come to her aid, but didn't want her to find out.

She poured herself a cup of tea and took a sip – there was a touch of sweetness in the otherwise bitter taste. She would not tell Cheng Zheng that she had seen him in the hospital. It was a coincidence on her part really – one day, she had seen him hurrying out of the oncology ward. That very afternoon, the consultant brought news of the vacant room. Since Cheng Zheng didn't mention it, neither would she.

So this is what it felt like to depend on someone. She had once thought that she didn't need to rely on anyone but now she finally understood – the more she tried to resolve her issues on her own strength, the more tired she felt under the weight of her burdens. Why should she forsake his genuine concern for her because of her pride? He wasn't giving her charity; it was simply his way of loving her. In the presence of certain people, she needn't put on a strong façade.

She finally had a breakthrough.

That night, her uncle summoned her to the living room. When her mother was still alive, their stepfather-stepdaughter relationship was a respectful one although there was a certain formality to it.

Uncle pushed a small box towards her and said “Yun Jin, I know deep down you’ve never truly regarded me as a father. I’ve always wished that you were my own flesh and blood. Now that your mom is no longer around ... this is something she left behind. She would want you to have it. Do you remember the old house you lived in when your father was alive? Your mother could never bear to sell it. A few years earlier, she had changed the title deed to your name. It’s yours now. Take it as a token of your parents’ love for you and something for you to remember them by.”

Yun Jin opened the box silently. There was an assortment of things inside – a few pages of document concerning the title deed, her mother’s earrings that she wore on a daily basis, two bank books which amounted to only a few thousands, and many old photographs. There was a family portrait that had been taken when her father was still alive and many photos that depicted her growing up. Most of the photographs had yellowed with age and even had creases at the edges. This was all her mother had.

Yun Jin didn’t cry. She caressed the old photographs gently; she could almost imagine her mother’s lingering warmth on them.

“Do you know, I used to hate you? Despite knowing that my mom made the right decision in choosing to be with you, I simply couldn’t forget about my dad. I hated that you took a portion of her love that was only meant for daddy and me. I even started to give my mom the cold-shoulder ... I’m not a good daughter. Maybe I will never be able to call you daddy but there’s still something I have to get off my chest ... thank you. For all you’ve done. Whether mom is here or not, you’ll always be family.

When Yun Jin had finished speaking, the man who was more than half a century old started to cry.

After all her mom’s funeral arrangements had been seen to, Yun Jin made her way to her old home. This was where her parents had met and fallen in love. Yun Jin walked over every square foot of the place; she could almost relive the memories they had as a family. Her parents had finally reunited in heaven.

Some of her relatives on her mother’s side still lived in the county. Yun Jin stayed in her mother’s cousin’s place. Although it was a distant relative, his

family treated Yun Jin very well and didn't mind that her mother had only just passed away which was a social taboo for the superstitious crowd. Yun Jin stayed for a few days and she passed every one of it by taking long, lazy naps. When her uncle returned from tending to the fields, he would even play Go with her. She couldn't remember a more carefree period in her entire existence.

On the last day of her leave, she dragged a reclining chair to the yard. The warm sunshine this winter day was just right. She was only halfway through a romance novel she had found in her cousin's room when she was overcome with sleepiness. She placed the opened book on her abdomen and shut her eyes. In novels, the rich male lead always had a nasty mother. In this one, the mother had pushed a check towards the pregnant female lead and sneered "Isn't this what you want? Here's the money. Leave my son alone."

That day, she had woken up next to Cheng Zheng and had set about tidying the bedroom and kitchen before making a move. She had not gotten very far when she met the returning Zhang Jin Yin. And just like in the fictional world, Zhang Jin Yin had invited her to her car to "have a chat".

Her first sentence had been "Yun Jin, I once assumed you were going to be my daughter-in-law ..."

The "conversation" would have been more appropriately described as a monologue because Yun Jin remained silent throughout. Zhang Jin Yin wasn't overbearing; her upbringing had taught her to be cultured and thoughtful so she paid much heed to Yun Jin's feelings and never went overboard with her words. But Yun Jin knew her past with Xu Zhi Heng and her inability to get pregnant had reached Zhang Jin Yin's ears. This wasn't in the least bit unexpected. There were no secrets that could be kept hidden forever. Moreover, Zhang Jin Yin was a powerful person with wide connections.

"I'm just an ordinary mother. I hope you understand." Zhang Jin Yin sighed.

Yun Jin smiled "You don't need my understanding because what you've recounted are all facts. I know what you mean." She was grateful to Zhang Jin Yin for not offering her money because then she would've felt more ashamed.

"Actually, I'm not forcing you to leave Cheng Zheng. I know my own son. He's a silly kid; when he's set his mind on something, nothing can get him to change

course. But Yun Jin, even if we were to discount what has happened in the last four years as well as overlook the issue on children, you've seen for yourself what it's like to be together. Neither of you were happy. My only wish is for my son to live a blissful life so let me ask you this, can you guarantee my son's happiness?"

Yun Jin mulled it over before lifting her head to look Zhang Jin Yin in the eyes "I cannot."

Just as Yun Jin was about to drift off to sleep under the warm glow of the sun, someone picked up the novel from her abdomen. That same person read the title of the novel aloud in an exaggerated manner "My Sweet Horrible Teenage Years ... Tsk Su Yun Jin. What should I say about you? You've run all the way here to read such lame stories?"

Yun Jin wasn't surprised by his abrupt appearance and she calmly reached out to grab her novel back before shutting her eyes again. Cheng Zheng reached out to slap her face repeatedly albeit gently "Stop pretending! Spill, why did you escape to this god-forsaken place?"

Yun Jin swatted his annoying hand away "Then why are you here?"

"I ... I've come to retrieve what belongs to me. Return me my chain!" He demanded.

"But you gave it to me." Yun Jin reminded him.

"I don't care!" This was his typical response whenever he found himself at the losing end of an argument. "What is the meaning of you leaving while I slept? Even if it was an escort, one also has to pay you know!"

Yun Jin sat up lazily "Then how much are you asking for? Your service truly wasn't worth much."

Cheng Zheng gritted out through clenched teeth "Whatever. I want you to give me a good reason."

Yun Jin studied him quietly before turning to walk back into the house. Then, she emerged with a Go set. She placed the board in the middle of the yard before saying "Cheng Zheng, let's settle everything with this."

Cheng Zheng stared at her incredulously. *Is she insane?* When he observed

that Yun Jin wasn't budging, he realised that she wasn't joking and he started to bargain "Why can't we try other things? Say a race? ... Come on, I should have some say in this right?"

"You can choose to play, or not." Yun Jin replied without skipping a beat.

Cheng Zheng hesitated as he weighed his options mentally. "Alright, then I'll play the black pieces." Since he couldn't avoid it, he might as well take every advantage and begin first.

"As you wish. Let's begin." Yun Jin seated herself down.

When they were together, he had refused to learn how to play even though Go was a traditional game in his alma mater. Yun Jin was surprised to discover that Cheng Zheng had improved remarkably. Cheng Zheng's style of play was similar to his character – he was aggressive and he claimed the board section by section. Soon the board was dominated by the black pieces. In contrast, Yun Jin was steady and calm; she didn't get flustered one bit. She knew that victory was not guaranteed until the game had concluded.

Black had gained 65 pieces and was leading. Cheng Zheng smirked on seeing Yun Jin knit her brows in concentration. She couldn't have known that he had been studying the game in the past four years and that he was now quite a competent player. So even when the white pieces gained ground at 67, he did not panic. When black countered and rose to 73, Yun Jin couldn't help but smile in admiration. With victory within grasp, Cheng Zheng tried hard to temp his feelings of complacency. *This woman, see if she ever tries to bully me like this again.* He looked forward to what she had to say when she lost eventually.

Yun Jin pondered over her subsequent moves carefully and the tide turned. Soon, Cheng Zheng's pieces became vulnerable on all sides and he started to break out in cold sweat. The more he panicked, the more he couldn't focus and his winning advantage was slowly but surely whittled down. When white was 94, Yun Jin's position was unshakable. Cheng Zheng knew that if her 96th piece was put down, most of his black pieces would not survive. So when Yun Jin picked up her 96th piece, he grabbed her hand and pleaded "Wait, this doesn't count. I made a wrong move earlier."

Yun Jin smiled gently "Cheng Zheng, be a good sport like a gentleman."

“I’m no gentleman. Let’s start over.” Since it came to this, he would rather be openly shameless.

Yun Jin couldn’t be bothered with him as she removed his grip with her free hand. The white piece landed on the board and she proclaimed “You’ve lost Cheng Zheng.”

With lightning reflexes, Cheng Zheng messed up the board and demanded “So what if I’ve lost?! You must be joking. How can my future be determined by some stupid game?!”

“Be a good loser. Like I proposed earlier, this game determines everything. You didn’t reject me and played. So, from now on, you’ll be handling all the household chores because I need some time to find a new job.”

Cheng Zheng couldn’t believe his ears. *What ... what did she say?* Did he mishear?

A long while later, Yun Jin heard a strange voice reply enthusiastically “I’ll learn!”

When she rested in his embrace, Yun Jin thought back to the rest of the conversation she had with Zhang Jin Yin “... I cannot. No one can guarantee happiness. But what I can say is, if Cheng Zheng isn’t happy, I’ll hurt even more than you.”

Then, Cheng Zheng broke her reverie as he said slowly “I’ve never regretted parting with you Yun Jin because I believe no matter how far apart we are, I’ll be able to find my way back to you eventually. Su Yun Jin, I’ve finally found you.”

Cheng Zheng didn’t know how long he held her in his arms. Sometime later, they heard children laughing. He looked over and saw a few children, covered half in mud, staring straight at them as they pointed and giggled. It was indeed an uncommon sight for children of the countryside.

“Um ... Yun Jin? Can we please get up now? My feet’s kind of numb.” He was still in the same seated position he took while playing chess. Yun Jin got to her feet before offering him a hand “Come, let me bring you to see someone.”

In the doorway of another of Yun Jin’s uncle’s place, Cheng Zheng saw Yun Jin’s great-grandmother once again. It had been many years since that wedding and

now she was nearing a hundred although she didn't look too different. However, her eyesight was now completely gone. She was currently seated on a stool as she felt her way around as she tried to pluck vegetables.

Cheng Zheng suddenly remembered his promise all those years back when he had pretended to be Yun Jin's boyfriend at her mother's wedding. He had promised granny that if they were to get married, he would relay the good news to her personally. At this memory, he clutched Yun Jin's hand more tightly.

Yun Jin pulled gently at him such that he came to squat by her great-grandmother's knee.

"Granny, I am Yun Jin. Cheng Zheng and I have come to see you."

Granny halted whatever she was doing as she grinned toothlessly "Yun Jin, you're here. Your mom was just here earlier."

"Granny, I am Cheng Zheng. Do you still remember me? I'm the guy who fought the Japanese?" Cheng Zheng asked hopefully with one hand rested on her knee.

Granny racked her brains for a long while "The one who fought the Japanese ... Oh you must be our little Yun Jin's boyfriend."

"That's right." Cheng Zheng didn't care if granny could see him as he nodded his head vigorously.

Yun Jin chuckled inwardly before saying "Granny, Cheng Zheng and I are together once again."

Granny resumed her plucking of vegetables as she replied "Haven't you always been together?"

Both of them stared at her dumbfounded before they gripped each other's hand in unison "Yes granny, you're right."

...

"When your great-grandfather and I were still young, we always bickered. Now fifty years later, no one argues with me anymore ..."

Granny continued to ramble on as the warmth from the setting sun caused Yun Jin to feel drowsy. She rested her head on Cheng Zheng's shoulder.

We were separated in our youth but thankfully after bumbling around and losing our way, you're still here.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).

Chapter 44 (Epilogue)

You Are Still Here (原来你还在这里) – Chapter 44 [EPILOGUE]

[September 7, 2014](#) by [yingniang](#) [59 Comments](#)



Our central storyline has reached its conclusion but what about the fates of the other characters?

Chapter 44

Someone once advised me “Never gossip about your colleagues in the washroom.” Apparently, this was rule number seven in a famous guide to surviving the corporate world. I’ve always abided by this rule but there are others who pooh-pooh it.

“... Look at you. Your lipstick is too over the top. You better not get caught by our supervisor!”

“What are you afraid of? The supervisor doesn’t have the time to concern himself over such nitty-gritties. If we women don’t even have the freedom to put on make-up, then where’s the fun in life?”

“Funny you should say that. There *are* women who don’t care about make-up.”

“Haha I know who you’re referring to. Is it Mo ...”

The two young nurses giggled uncontrollably before one of them said

“Considering the kind of woman Dr Mo is, do you think she’s ever been in a relationship?”

“Who knows? Though I can’t imagine any man tolerating her razor sharp scary looks.”

“The way I see it, most likely some boy has broken her heart before that’s why ...”

“Haha! Keep it down. We don’t want other people to hear us.”

“What are you afraid of! She’s not on duty today.”

I stood quietly in my cubicle. Many people derived pleasure from gossiping about others and I was glad I was able to be their source of amusement. Before they left, I unlocked my cubicle and walked out to the wash area where they were. As I was washing my hands, I felt I owed them an explanation so I said to the nurse whose lipstick was frozen in midair “I’m sorry to say I exchanged shifts with Dr Wang today.”

After carefully wiping off every last drop of water from my palms, I walked round the two nurses who were still staring at me dumbfounded and exited the washroom. However they choose to insult me upon my departure doesn’t matter.

After all, they weren’t exactly wrong.

I’ll never forget that night after the National Examinations had concluded. That dark, empty KTV corridor echoed with the singing from the various lounges and that did little to calm my racing heart.

I never thought that I would bump into him while returning from the washroom. His face was ruddy as he made a mad dash for the washroom. Obviously he had drank too much. When he passed me, he didn’t even glance in my direction. But I knew, it was my last chance; I didn’t want to graduate with regrets.

“Zhou Zi Yi!” I yelled out.

He took another step forward before looking back puzzled. He looked past me as he tried to determine who had called out to him.

I told myself, *Mo Yu Hua, count from 1 to 7 and calm down.*

I could sense my feet making its way slowly in his direction as a faraway voice enquired “Could I take up some of your time? There’s something I have to say to you.”

He stared at me baffled.

I confessed “I like you. For three years now, I’ve liked you.”

To be perfectly honest, I never once held hope that he would reply “So have I.” In fact, I had prepared myself for the worst. But when he stared at me incredulously and said “You have got to be kidding ... Oh please let me off.”, I knew my emotional shield wasn’t as strong as I had hoped it would be. So now, even after more than a decade has passed, I still remain resolute in my belief that the most hurtful of words often emerge from the prettiest people.

Yun Jin always found it unfair. “Why?” she would question me, “Apart from a handsome face, what do you see in him?” I was never able to answer her.

Love never made sense but bystanders always strove to tease out a plausible reason. Most people are able to find their soul mates while others fall for the imperfect. I belong to the latter.

I had been classmates with Zhou Zi Yi ever since Year One. The first day of my senior high schooling, I sat in the newly renovated classroom feeling out of place as the conspicuous country bumpkin in the spick and span environment. Then, I saw him stroll in casually. It had been a stormy day and many school mates looked bedraggled. However, somehow, he managed to avoid the fate of the other drowned rats. His uniform was immaculate and his shoes was pristine white. He seemed just like an angel that had descended from heaven. I never thought a boy could look so perfect.

I don’t know how many other female classmates ogled him as I did. When he walked passed me, I bent my head low such that my eyes were trained on his dirt-free sneakers. Funnily enough, I suddenly recalled all my past brushes with the opposite gender like my uncles and male friends. They spent years barefeet working hard in the fields up to their waist in mud and their feet always had grime which couldn’t be washed off. A pair of six dollar boots could last my father three years and he would wear that same pair faithfully throughout the

seasons. Perhaps I fell for him at first sight; he was like a dazzling bolt of lightning that split open my sky such that I caught a glimpse of another world that was far removed from my home in the fields.

There I stood in the dirt desiring after the one in the clouds.

I once spent many months trying to get rid of the stubborn dirt entrapped beneath my fingernails from the many years of laboring in the fields. I also spent those months scrutinizing my round face in the mirror and trying all sorts of ways to improve it. But eventually I had to face up to reality – I was destined never to become a person of his class. Thus I had to work hard and even harder at my studies because I knew apart from that, nothing else could change my fate. Even if I couldn't become the flawless swan like he was, I refused to remain an ugly duckling

Even though we had been classmates for three years, up until that moment, we had never once talked to each other. I don't think he even knew my name. He was just like Cheng Zheng – everyone was envious of him. If Cheng Zheng's cool attitude towards women caused them to stare from afar, then Zhou Zi Yi's generous smile easily earned the delight and ire of many. Of course, his smile was reserved only for the pretty ladies.

He was both the most considerate boy as well as the ringleader in teasing girls. His grades were poor and when he created mischief, he did not hold back. But both the principal and teachers were extra forgiving of him because apart from his likeable face, his father was the head of the province's largest real-estate company.

Later, I found out he was also a kid that nobody loved. In all three years in senior high, it was his father's assistant who attended all the parent-teacher conferences in his parents' stead. According to hearsay, there was only him and his nanny living in his mansion most of the time. In fact, whenever he had the chance, he would invite friends over to his place to enjoy unbridled fun.

In our second year at senior high, I heard someone mention that his father had made a rare visit to the school to meet with the principal. Even more shocking was his luxury car had been smashed beyond recognition in that same visit. It was the most sensational news in a long while. However, because they never

managed to capture the perpetrator, the matter died down. No one ever knew that I had witnessed him in the school's parking lot smashing every window of what appeared to be an expensive drive. It was coincidence on my part really.

So even the world up in the clouds wasn't perfect. When a woman's love has some traces of maternal love mixed in, it would become even more irretractable. I pitied him but I was also aware that if he came to know of it, it would be the most absurd situation – my pity wasn't worth anything. I was a nobody not only to him but also to the rest of the world. Nonetheless, he became the softest spot in my heart.

My love was a secret and it was hopeless. I am not Yun Jin, I cannot control my feelings. My rational mind warned me to stay clear of him, but my treacherous heart always betrayed me. Thus, I chose to confess that fateful night. I didn't dare dream that any result would come out of it. All I wanted was to leave my teenage years behind without regrets.

I loved a handsome boy in my youth. Even though he viewed me as a monster and fled terrified upon my confession, even though I became the laughing stock in his circles, I never regretted it.

The effort one invests in his academics always has better returns as compared to the attention one invests in people. My diligence paid off and I entered my dream university, becoming the first female in my county to successfully escape the fate of a farmer. With my poor father's full financial support and overflowing expectations, I began university life in the city. My life in university can be summarised as stints in one laboratory to the next. I'm not an exciting person by far and was a born introvert hence it comes as no surprise that I don't have many friends. Thankfully I had Yun Jin. Us being in the same city culminated in the establishment of a close friendship.

The summer of our first year in university, Yun Jin hesitantly brought news of his having a girlfriend. Frankly, I already knew. I rarely left comments in my friends' social media but I was always lingering on the various platforms to see what he was up to. His was an open relationship that was well documented online. From the many photos posted online, I could tell the girl was just like him – another pretty face. Seeing his contented and blissful smile, I knew he was truly in love. He wouldn't remember me. Perhaps when the couple was joking, he

would mention me – how this unknown country bumpkin had professed her unwanted love for him.

I assumed that was how I would spend the rest of my life – secretly watching him live happily from afar. I never expected that when I next saw him, it would be the sixth year post graduation. By that time, he had carved a name for himself in the real-estate world. More importantly, he had become engaged to his sweetheart.

When he made a stopover at G-city and organised a gathering, Cheng Zheng rang me up to ascertain my attendance. I knew Cheng Zheng's motivations – he was afraid that if I didn't attend, neither would Yun Jin. He badly needed an opportunity to heal the cracks in their relationship. Cheng Zheng couldn't have known that even if he had not made that call, I would still have attended. I am not one to hide from reality. Another way of putting it would be I desired to meet Zhou Zi Yi confidently.

That night, Zhou Zi Yi had approached me to make small talk. He told me "Yu Hua, you've become prettier." I was flattered. Even though I knew his words could never be taken seriously, my heart was making somersaults; at least he knew my name!

The six years had made his handsome appearance even more suave but it also helped me perfect the art of looking unaffected. We sat across each other and drank; if someone had told me years earlier that there would come such a day, I would have scoffed at him. When we were both sixty percent drunk, he teased me and asked if I had found the man of my dreams. I laughed and enquired if he had forgotten how I used to be infatuated with him back in senior high. My words made him double over in laughter as he pat my shoulders in approval of my sense of humour. For that, we toasted.

What he didn't know was that the many years since the fateful night had confirmed it for me – I would never love another like him. The world is a place of cruel irony; the line between fact and fiction is often blurred. The person I loved was right before me but he didn't even know it. He also didn't know I would never lie about certain things.

That day he had too much to drink and he said many things. I was the same

even though I was usually a quiet person. Eventually, he was completely wasted and I flagged a cab to see him back to his hotel. He rested heavily on my shoulders and slurred “Yu Hua, you’re an interesting person. If we could turn back the time, maybe I would have fallen for you heh.” My reaction was to laugh in unison. I wasn’t a fool. Zhou Zi Yi was a businessman through and through; even when he was drunk, he would not let himself be forced into a corner. He said “if we could turn back time” but we all knew that wasn’t possible. What he meant to say was, he would never fall in love with me.

When we reached his hotel, I staggered and stumbled my way to his room as I tried to balance both our weights. The other guests in the elevator caught a whiff of the stench of alcohol on us and took in the sight of us with hands around the other with unmasked disapproval. When the hotel staff unlocked the door to his room, I was so exhausted I dumped his body unceremoniously on the carpet of the luxury suite. I had done my duty as a former classmate. He lay on the carpet and struggled with loosening his tie. I couldn’t stand seeing him fumbling helplessly so I bent down and helped him. As I reached out, he yanked abruptly on the other end of the tie, causing me to teeter and I narrowly avoided falling on top of him.

“Don’t go ...” He begged.

I got up and called the male staff on shift to watch over him.

As I made my way back to the elevator, I clasped my burning face in my cold, shaking hands. I had to admit, my heart was racing back there. Any normal woman will not be able to remain unmoved in the presence of the man she loved. I could have stayed and used drunkenness as the perfect excuse to spend a night with him. Then at least I would have memories to last me a lifetime. But I, Mo Yu Hua, am simply unable to bed a man who keeps chattering on about missing his fiancée. I couldn’t bear to lower myself to that level. I was destined to pine after him from afar.

The next day, he called to thank me and invited me out for a meal. I declined him, citing school as an excuse. I couldn’t cope with a second night whether he intended it or not.

In the end, he returned to Shanghai. The gathering changed our friendship and

we kept in contact. Sometimes he would call to make small talk, other times he would pour out his frustrations concerning snags in his career or relationship. Chen Jie Jie was his fiancée and the one name he mentioned the most. She was indeed a fortunate girl to have Zhou Zi Yi the infamous player fall hard for her. She could leave him in the country without reservations as she studied in Europe. While I dare not say he didn't sleep around in her absence, he was definitely emotionally faithful. I believe apart from her beauty, there must have been something particularly winsome about her.

My days passed in a blur as I shouldered more responsibilities as a resident. There was an advantage to studying medicine; it helped me forget the fact that I was single even at the ripe age of twenty-five.

In my seventh year of university, I had just assisted in a simple appendicectomy when I received an urgent call from Meng Xue – Zhou Zi Yi had been in a serious car accident in Shanghai and his life was hanging in the balance. She asked if I wanted to fly in to Shanghai with her but I declined. There was no meaning in going there. His family's affluence would ensure his getting the best treatment if he didn't die. If he died ... If he died, nothing would have changed.

I stood rooted to the spot, stunned at my own heartlessness. My senior cum mentor, Dr Wu, was shocked "Little Mo, why are you crying?"

Was I? I wasn't aware of it then. I touched my face, I was indeed crying.

"Nothing. My eyes was irritated is all." I replied.

Dr Wu smiled and dropped the matter "Perhaps you should go to the washroom to handle your "irritated" eyes."

In the subsequent days, I reported for work as per usual and went for my break as per usual. I refused to enquire about how he was faring miles away. However, in my dreams, I was haunted by an ocean of blood.

On the sixth day, Meng Xue called. She sighed "Luckily he's tough. He's out of the woods but still not in a good shape. His ribcage is broken in three parts with one fragment narrowly avoiding piercing his lungs. His spleen is ruptured and one-third has been removed. His left nasal bone is fractured as is his left femur. Sadly even the rich are bound by circumstance; even in his state, his parents are held up by business and only managed to accompany him for two days before

rushing off. His fiancée is slightly better and she calls everyday. She claims she's preparing for a major examination and can't make it back. His family has hired private, highly qualified nurses to care for him round the clock. But even then, nurses cannot take the place of family. Seeing him like this ... it's really sad."

I hung up and mulled over it for a long time. Even before I came to a decision, I found myself already packing. I called Dr Wu to request a long leave of absence. His tone became serious on the other end "Little Mo, you should know that this residency is crucial. It affects your chance of employment with the better hospitals. You've always performed stellarly and our hospital has always been keen on signing you on. If you should take a long leave now ... You really should think twice."

"Senior, I'm certain."

That very afternoon, I took all my allowance from my residency and flew straight to Shanghai. When I landed, I rushed to the hospital immediately. At the sight of Zi Yi wrapped completely in gauze, I simply couldn't connect him with the carefree man I knew. I stood next to him and set down the luggage in my hand. He was so weak he couldn't speak but when he saw me, a single tear rolled out of the corner of his eye.

In the subsequent days, I made arrangements with the staff there. The nurses would tend to him as usual but I would take over any specialized care that needed expertise. The nurses' burden was lightened yet they enjoyed the same pay so naturally they were more than happy to accept my offer. As for the hospital, I told them I was a friend but I'm sure most of them treated me as his girlfriend. It was not surprising for who would believe that a simple friend would abandon everything to care for him so meticulously? Thus in the many days after, whenever the doctor on duty teased him "You rascal, your luck is pretty good huh. You managed to stay alive despite the horrific crash and you even have a professional doctor as a girlfriend to take care of you." I never corrected him.

Zi Yi had always been physically fit so his wounds healed relatively quickly, After twenty odd days had passed, he could even sit up in bed and most of the casts were removed. However, his hands and feet were still in plasters and he couldn't care for his own hygiene. Whenever I gave him a wipedown, he would

blush furiously and his body would tense when I reached his lower half. To me, any part of the human anatomy, be it male or female, was exactly what it is, human anatomy. Thus I often reassured him “You don’t have to feel awkward in front of a doctor. I’ve seen some larger than yours and some smaller than yours. You can relax. Yours isn’t at all special.” However, a month later, as I was cleaning him as per routine, I found a portion of him had an unusual reaction. I have to admit, I felt no less embarrassed than he did so I coughed lightly and remarked “Seems like you’re really making a good recovery.”

For two months, we were in our own world. I even slept in his VIP room. Every night, I would converse with him before we fell asleep on our respective beds. He hated the nurses’ way of doing things and refused to let them near him. Even his meals were rejected unless I fed him. There was even once when I went roaming in the hospital grounds and returned a tad later than usual. I hadn’t even entered his room but I could hear him throwing a huge tantrum at my absence. I almost thought I was important to him until the day of his discharge. I had made a short trip to the hospital canteen to grab breakfast but when I returned, I could no longer squeeze my way into his room. His parents, friends, and even subordinates had swarmed the room. Even from a distance, I could smell the ugly fragrance of fresh flowers.

I sat at the other end of the hospital and finished both sets of breakfasts silently. When one is full, one wouldn’t be as sad. When I finally walked back into the room, the mass had long gone. It was so pathetic really; I had harboured hopes that he would be like the dashing male leads in dramas and make a reappearance just before I gave myself to despair. He would say “I’m still here.”

But of course, he too was long gone. Humans are like that. Even when they know it was impossible, they still hoped.

The only person remaining in the room was a middle aged man who claimed to be his father’s assistant. He expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the Zhou family. One could tell he was an honest and kind man. When he said “We know that Ms Mo has taken good care of Mr Zhou on account of their close friendship. But as compensation for your time, we would like to present you with this. Should you refuse, we would assume that you don’t take Mr Zhou as a friend.” as he pushed a thick package towards me, I realised I didn’t have any reason to

refuse him. Hence, I accepted it and weighed it in my hands. The Zhou family sure was generous. This sum was enough to hire the best doctor in all of China. I tore open the flap and counted twenty pink notes before returning the rest to him. “Could you please relay my thanks to Mr Zhou for paying my return airfare?”

When I flew back to G-city, the first thing I did was to visit Yun Jin. There she lay on the bed with a deathly white face that was no different from the bedsheets. When she saw me, she took a long time before finally choking out “Yu Hua, the child is no more. The doctor says I’ll never have children in future.”

I sat by her bedside and clasped her hand in mine as her tears flowed freely. Even a girl so adept at protecting herself could be so stupid in the name of love. Could it be that every woman had to be silly once in their life before they learned to be strong? She was the same. As was I.

When I was still by Yun Jin’s side, I received a call from Zi Yi. He said “Yu Hua, I’m grateful to you. I’ll never forget this. If you should need my help one day, come hell or high water, I will get it done.”

I listened to him quietly before replying “What would I need that requires you to go through hell or high water? Don’t think so highly of yourself. I went to Shanghai not for your sake but for my own. You don’t owe me anything.”

When I hung up, I told Yun Jin “He’s such a shrewd person through and through. Everything has a price to him. Did you hear? He said to thank me, he was willing to go through hell or high water. That is the price he set on me ... but what fault is it of his? He never made any request of me. Everything that I did, I was willing. I did it for myself, not because of compassion for him.”

When my tears had dried, I had an emotional breakthrough.

On my return to my hospital, I received a strict warning. Thankfully, due to my otherwise good performance, I didn’t receive worse punishment.

Half a year later, I received Zi Yi’s wedding invitation. It was clearly written – Groom Zhou Zi Yi and Bride Chen Jie Jie sincerely invite you, Ms Mo Yu Hua, to their wedding on xx/xx/xx.

She had finally come home. The prince and princess were destined to be

together. It was just as well that the lovers had reunited.

The eve of the wedding, Yun Jin asked me “Yu Hua, will you attend?”

I replied “I will. Why not? Since I have to give a red packet, I might as well go and take a look for myself.”

“That’s good. If you go, you can pass them my red packet. I have work-related stuff tomorrow, I won’t be going.”

I agreed readily because I knew the true reason for her unwillingness to attend – she didn’t want to meet him.

The day of the wedding, I dressed simply because I knew better than to compare myself with the fortunate bride. Moreover, I wasn’t pretty myself. When I passed the couple my red packet, I offered my congratulations sincerely “I wish you eternal happiness.” I looked at Zi Yi and stared into his eyes but he broke the gaze and looked away. Then, I presented Yun Jin’s red packet “This is Yun Jin’s. She wants me to send her well-wishes on her behalf.” The dashing best man looked forlorn at the news.

I thought of Yun Jin’s deathly white face. Love was such a strange thing. It didn’t allow another to gain because one had lost. No, it made everyone suffer the same heartbreak.

I left the washroom and promptly forgot about the two nurses as I returned to my clinic. Doctor Zhang, who was in the clinic opposite mine, saw that I had returned and he leapt to his feet eagerly “Dr Mo, you’re back! Please handle everything while I go to the toilet.” Everyone had to grow old and die someday, isn’t this why the hospital’s “business” was always so prosperous?

I was reading a case note intently as I yelled out “Next!” Very quickly, someone occupied the seat before me. I looked up and waited patiently for the patient to begin.

He said “Doctor, I hurt here.”

He pointed at his chest. I advised him seriously “If you’re having chest pains, I strongly recommend a referral to Internal Medicine.”

“What if I’m also bleeding?”

"In that case I can stem the bleeding first." I pretended not to notice the exaggerated and playful manner in which he was clutching his chest.

My patient grew silent as his mischievous grin slowly disappeared "Yu Hua, I've divorced."

This wasn't something new. I replied "If that's the case, you can see a psychiatrist or a counsellor."

"Yu Hua, can we talk as friends?"

"You're spending good money to be here. This is the only way we can talk. If you've nothing else to add then I'm going to call for the next patient."

That night, I called Yun Jin. Because of her mother's matter, she had returned to the county. I hadn't met her in a long while. She informed me that she had quit her job. Then I heard a familiar albeit unexpected voice in the background "Yun Jin, who are you talking to?" She covered the receiver and I could only make out muffled voices on my end. After some time she replied "Let's continue."

I couldn't help but ask "Did you quit for him?"

"You can say that. Since I've decided to begin afresh with him, then I owe it to him and our relationship to leave the company. He claims he doesn't mind but I don't think I can continue working under Xu Zhi Heng. It'll only make things awkward."

"Are you really set on starting things over? Aren't you afraid history will repeat itself?" I wasn't being a wet blanket. I've seen for myself their many quarrels and reunions. If love could resolve all problems, they would never have separated in the first place.

"I can't be sure of anything. Not all problems can be resolved even when we face them bravely as a couple. I've come to realise that we can't be calculative in love. We can only be forgiving."

Perhaps she was right.

Yun Jin continued "There's something even funnier. I woke up last night to the sound of someone going through my things. I had such a scare and I turned on

the lights immediately only to see that it was him. I asked him what he was doing in the middle of the night and he said he was looking for our household registration certificate.”

I teased “He can’t be thinking of proposing?”

Yun Jin also chuckled “That’s what I asked him too. He merely replied ‘Su Yun Jin, a man at twenty-eight is in his prime while a woman at the same age will start to show signs of ageing. Hence we have to get married right away.’”

“This sounds like Cheng Zheng alright.”

“Yu Hua, will you believe me if I said that sometimes love needs a bit of impulsiveness? I replied him ‘When does the office of registry open?’ Who knew that the office only opens at eight? The two of us started waiting outside at seven like the idiots we are. When they finally opened their doors, we discovered that they were only handling divorce cases that day.”

I couldn’t help but laugh out loud. “Yun Jin, have I mentioned that I’m really envious of you?”

It’s true, no matter how many obstacles she faced, as long as she was willing to turn back, there would always be someone waiting and ready to help her. But where was my person?

After Zhou Zi Yi and Cheng Zheng became business partners, they moved their office to G-city. Since he was divorced, Zi Yi no longer had any reason to remain in Shanghai. Later the same year, I was sleeping one night when I received a call from a very tipsy Zi Yi. There was loud music in the background. He slurred “I’ve had too much to drink. Can you come get me?” I know I should have turned him down but I didn’t. I asked him where he was before changing.

When there was a first, there would always be a second time. I became his lifeline. Soon it came to be that whenever he had finished entertaining clients, he would drop by my place. He said it was because he loved the tea I brewed.

Zi Yi loved Bi Luo Chun green tea but its fragrance was too overwhelming for my liking. I preferred Liu An green tea. Whenever he visited, I would always serve him his favourite tea before brewing my own mix. Oftentimes, he would leave after drinking unless he was dead drunk. On such occasions, he would spend the

night.

Back in the hospital, my mentor Dr Wu constantly reminded me “Yu Hua, transferring to Dublin is a wonderful opportunity. This offer won’t be extended to you forever. You must make a decision fast.”

Yun Jin asked “If you should stay, then it should be for someone who’s worth it. But what am I to make of the both of you right now?”

I didn’t answer her. I knew he depended on my warmth. Perhaps this was what his rich parents and beautiful ex-wife couldn’t give him. Eventually, I learned the reason behind his separation. It was a simple problem actually. She was unhappy that he spent too much time meeting clients whereas he was frustrated that she didn’t view family as a priority. Pretty people were all the same – they tend to be haughty and stubborn and both of them was no exception. What was originally a small issue became a bonfire out of control and both grew tired of the constant fighting and decided to separate due to “irreconcilable differences”.

Everytime I saw him off, I would sit quietly in the spot he had occupied for a long time until even the tea had cooled. Yun Jin was right; she said “Zhou Zi Yi is merely using you. He enjoys this arrangement because he gets to have your company but at the same time, is not beholden to any relationship responsibility.” Sometimes people choose to plunge into the deep knowingly.

Sometimes he would sigh “Yu Hua, you’re no longer young. Don’t drag it anymore. Find a good man and settle down.” Indeed, I was already thirty. How much time did I have left? Back in my county, a twenty-five year old unwed maiden would be a source of worry for her parents. If she was my age, she would simply be viewed as a freak. My parents who were once so proud of my achievements now dreaded my name coming up amongst my relatives. They called, nagged, scolded and even tried to matchmake me but slowly they accepted that it was futile and they let me be. They pretended that I didn’t exist to save themselves the worry.

On my thirtieth birthday, Zi Yi took time off specially to celebrate the milestone with me. He said “Yu Hua, why couldn’t you have been my family?” I didn’t answer him. He was a practical and cruel person. He was clearer than anyone else that that wasn’t what I wanted to hear.

By this time, Yun Jin and Cheng Zheng had long since married. The two stubborn people still butt heads occasionally but having once lost each other, they learned to appreciate the other. Just as Yun Jin had mentioned, love needed perseverance and forgiveness. It was regretful that they couldn't have children. In the past two years, they had tried all methods of conception but the result was always disappointing. Yun Jin didn't say it but I could sense her stress. Cheng Zheng was not only an only child, he also hailed from such an affluent family. Perhaps this was the price they had to pay for the mistakes in their youth.

Two months after my birthday, Zi Yi formally invited me to dinner. When I reached, he was already waiting. I'd known him for such a long time and he was rarely punctual.

I sat down and observed that he was unusually serious and tense. Thus I decided to get to the bottom of the matter immediately "If you have something to say, you can just say it straight."

He hesitated for a long while before raising his head to look at me.

"... Jie Jie has returned. I realise I still love her so ... I intend to remarry."

Because I just entered the warm restaurant from the wintry outdoors, my glasses were fogged up. I took it off calmly and slowly rubbed at it with cloth. Just as he reached the pinnacle of anxiety at my non-response, I replied "Oh."

From beginning till end, I had always been a bystander. Apart from being privy to certain details, I had no other rights.

Before I left, I told him "I wish you happiness."

I meant what I said; I truly wished him well. Perhaps only then could we both forget each other.

At night, I returned to the hospital. The patients were still as numerous. When I passed by the operating theatre, I heard a relative let out a heart-wrenching sob. After being accustomed to working in a hospital, one became immune to death. Day in and out, people died from road traffic accidents, physical assaults, cancer, virus ... but no one ever died from sorrow.

Yun Jin dropped by to drink with me. When we were both tipsy, she cursed in a low voice "Zhou Zi Yi that jerk."

In all the years I knew her, I had never heard Yun Jin scold anyone so I couldn't help but smile.

Was there a rule that ordained that the person you loved must love you back? There wasn't.

So I said "He's not at fault. He just doesn't love me."

[END]

Yingniang's comments

As the translator for this novel, I'm very heartened to read that most of you love our two leads. It wouldn't have been such a fun ride if no one felt anything for our couple. It may come as a slight surprise then that neither Yun Jin nor Cheng Zheng are my favourite characters. Mo Yu Hua rocketed to the top of my list with this heartbreaking epilogue and mysterious Shen Ju An comes second. Which brings to mind, what *is* Ju An's story?

Some of you have rightly pointed out that Xin Yi Wu likes her characters to make appearances in her other works and this is the case for many of the supporting characters here. This despite it being the first book she had ever written. Let's take one moment to admire her foresight and literary talent. Peanuts and I have discussed this early on and we thought it best that I make a mention of certain supporting characters which also include Lu Lu and Zhou Zi Yi. Yes, Zi Yi's story doesn't end here. I've put all of it under an extra cut in case some of you want to read the original text. Having said that, for those of you who can, you *should* read the original texts because some things are just sadly lost in translation.

Before I end off, I would be completely remiss if I didn't thank my mentor, Peanuts, for her patience and guidance. She has helped me to source for pictures as well as bridge any differences in content between the original text and the published version to maximise your reading experience and for that I cannot thank her enough. She has truly been a great help in easing my load. For all you aspiring translators out there, I would recommend you giving it a try right here on this platform (subject to tryouts)! You'll be in good hands a la Peanuts for sure.

I also want to thank Hui3r for allowing me on her platform as well as all you readers for following the story, leaving comments and liking posts. It's been wonderful interacting with all of you (please do continue to leave comments, I would drop by occasionally to reply them and that's a promise.) You may not know this but the excitement you may derive as readers from noticing a new post is out is the same excitement we translators get when we receive notification of a new comment!

With that, I take my bow from the translating world. Truth be told, I undertook this project because I love writing and the experience has only deepened my love for the art. I know I still have much to improve on and I will try to go over all my posts and make the necessary edits when time permits. Perhaps I will make a reappearance when the drama version of *You Are Still Here* is announced because the story means so much to me. I know I can't wait for news of its dramatization, what about you?

P.S. Do rate the story over at [You Are Still Here's Shu Sheng Bar page](#)!

Warning: Major Spoiler Alert

.
. .
. .
. .
. .

Shen Ju An 《山月不知心底事 – The Moon Doesn't Understand My Heart》

Shen Ju An's first love is Yuan Xiu and the gold ring was a gift from her. Because of a twist of events, Yuan Xiu becomes a social escort and Shen Ju An leaves for university. They separate.

Yuan Xiu gets involved with a man called Ye Qian Ze. However his wife, known as Xiang Yuan, is not to be trifled with.

Despite having broken up, Ju An still seeks her out because he can't forget her and eventually Yuan Xiu becomes pregnant with their child. (Note, it was never explicitly stated that it is Ju An's child and it may well have been Qian Ze's child

with the only clue being Yuan Xiu fought hard to keep the child.)

Unfortunately for Yuan Xiu, Zhang Yue is also not to be trifled with. When the latter discovers that Yuan Xiu's child is most likely Ju An's, she is livid. In a surprising show of cunningness, she approaches Xiang Yuan and informs her of Yuan Xiu's pregnancy and misleads her into thinking the child is Qian Ze's. Xiang Yuan eventually causes Yuan Xiu to suffer a miscarriage.

(This was an interesting show of devious brilliance from Zhang Yue because Shen Ju An grew to hate Xiang Yuan. He never once suspected that his wife was the mastermind.)

After a series of further run-ins with Xiang Yuan, Yuan Xiu is admitted into a mental asylum. However, it is not stated if Yuan Xiu has truly gone insane or if it's Xiang Yuan flexing her influence. Most notably, Shen Ju An does not go to her rescue and does not assist in getting her acquitted from the institution.

Over time, Ju An begins to see the error of his ways and feels guilty for his mistreatment of Zhang Yue who genuinely loves him. When a quarrel causes Zhang Yue to leave for France, Ju An chases after her. It is hinted that their relationship improves gradually.

Zhou Zi Yi and Chen Jie Jie 《[许我向你看看 – Let Me Look At You](#)》

Back in senior high, Chen Jie Jie bore a child out of wedlock with another man. Her parents were ashamed and they forced her to give the child up for adoption. She was even made to swear never to seek out the child again since she was already matchmade as a child to Zi Yi. Her parents subsequently arranged for her to attend the same university as him.

We know their marriage dissolved at one point. As for their remarriage, that Zi Yi loves her is no secret but on Jie Jie's part, she had no choice because her family had landed in financial trouble. They desperately needed the Zhou family's wealth to tide them through. Eventually, she and Zi Yi have a baby boy of their own.

Lu Lu 《[马路天使 – Angel of The Road](#)》《[晨昏 – Evening Twilight](#)》

Lu Lu is Lu Sheng's step-niece. Lu Lu's father and Lu Sheng are half-brothers with the former being the illegitimate son. Their almost non-existent brotherly ties become further estranged when both of them fall for the same woman with Lu Lu's father ultimately emerging triumphant.

Being the twisted psychopath he is, Lu Sheng orchestrates the murder of Lu Lu's parents under the guise of an accident. He then acquires guardianship of Lu Lu though he remains distant.

However, one day, something snaps in Lu Sheng and he rapes Lu Lu who was too weak to resist his vile advances. It becomes a vicious cycle. Initially, Lu Lu doesn't escape because Lu Sheng is all the family she has.

Later on, Lu Lu meets a sweet suitor named Chen Lang though Lu Sheng goes all out to destroy their romance. However, they remain steadfast in their love and Chen Lang proposes to elope. Although Lu Sheng eventually agrees to give Lu Lu her wings, he reneges on his word and speeds after her in a bid to prevent her from reaching the airport.

Lu Lu notices his car in her rearview mirror and accepts that she would never be able to escape his powerful clutches. She smiles before ramming her own car into the divider, killing herself instantly. Lu Sheng himself is seriously wounded though he survives the crash.

Unfortunately, Chen Lang never learns of Lu Lu's demise and the story ends with him misunderstanding that Lu Lu wasn't willing to abandon everything to leave with him.

Categories: [Xin Yi Wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#) | Tags: [C-novel](#), [辛夷坞](#), [Translation](#), [xin yi wu](#), [You Are Still Here](#), [原来你还在这里](#) | [Permalink](#).